ENTERTAINMENT / D1

No one's too young for love, says Robin Padilla

SPORTS / A23

San Beda rips PCU, moves a win away from NCAA title

WORLD / A22

In rare move, Pope says he's 'deeply sorry'; some Muslims still angry

NEWS / A7

Eddie Mercado, veteran TV host, dies; 68

Pluto plays lesser role in Planetarium cast

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE SHOW MUST GO ON —but with Pluto stricken from the original cast.

After 31 years, shows at the Planetarium in Quezon City will no longer present Pluto as the ninth member of

PLUTO PLAYS/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, September 19, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 283 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Australia extends aid to victims of oil spill

AUSTRALIA IS PROVIDING P7.3 MILLION (A$193,000) in emergency humanitarian relief, mainly for children and families displaced by the oil spill in Guimaras, the Australian Embassy said yesterday.

The aid package would address the villagers' needs as pointed out by a recent UN Children's Fund (Unicef) study of communities in the Is-

AUSTRALIA/ A8

Toxic fumes down Guimaras villagers

Pro-GMA solons say WB report misleading

By Philip C. Tubeza and Christine O. Avendaño

ADMINISTRATION LAWMAKERS in the House of Representatives yesterday dared the World Bank to produce evidence supporting its report that corruption in the country had worsened in the past eight years.

They said the report was "unfair, inaccurate and misleading."

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the World Bank should come out with its specific findings and transmit these to the Office of the Ombudsman if it were serious about helping the government fight corruption.

"The World Bank graft assessment of (the country) is very vague. There are no specifics (but it's) full of generalities. Fighting graft can't be done in general terms," Nograles said.

He said the World Bank must specify cases of corruption and send the findings to the Office of the Ombudsman so that the legal process could begin.

"Otherwise, its findings and general charges are just accusations blowing in the wind and meant to destroy and not to help this republic," he said.

The World Bank report, "Governance Matters 2006: Worldwide Governance Indicators," which covered 209 countries, showed a sharp decline in the ranking of the Philippines in the benchmark for the control of corruption—from 50.5 percent in

PRO-GMA/ A9

A WOMAN cleanup worker mulls over the damage that bunker fuel oil from the sunken MT Solar I has wrought on the mangroves and shoreline of Barangay Tando, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras. HAZEL P. VILLA/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Gov't report bares effects of oil spill on health

By Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas

NUEVA VALENCIA, Guimaras—High levels of hydrogen sulfide, a highly toxic gas, in three villages heavily affected by the MT Solar I oil spill have sickened 29 people, including four children, according to a government report, the details of which had not been made public.

The "MT Solar I Oil Spill Health and Environmental Recommendations," dated Aug. 28, was made the basis for the Aug. 29 memorandum of the provincial government ordering the evacuation of residents of Barangays Cabalagnan, La Paz and Tando.

Hydrogen sulfide is a colorless, flammable, highly toxic gas with a characteristic rotten-egg odor that is detectable at concentrations as low as 0.5 parts per billion (ppb), says the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

The report was the result of a preliminary health and environmental assessment conducted by the Department of Health in collaboration with the University of the Philippines National Poison Management and Control Center on Aug. 23, or 12 days after the Solar I sank off Guimaras with a load of 2.19 million liters of bunker fuel.

The oil spill, the worst in the country, has contaminated rich fishing grounds, mangroves, beaches and sea-grass beds, killing wildlife like birds and turtles.

"Aside from 29 sick residents,

TOXIC FUMES/ A8

Reds killed over 1,200, Esperon testifies

ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon presents military evidence to the Melo Commission. JOAN BONDOC

By Fe Zamora

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon yesterday told an investigative commission that communist guerrillas had murdered more than 1,200 people over the past five years, most of them civilians.

Testifying before the commission headed by retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Melo, Esperon sought to deflect accusations that the security services were responsible for the surge in assassinations of leftist figures and journalists.

Leftist groups have blamed the security services for the murders.

Guerrillas of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, killed 843 civilians and 384 soldiers or police officers in 1,130 attacks between January 2000 and May 2006, Esperon said.

"It was listed in our records that there were 384 (military and police) and 843 civilians (who) were slain and these were victims of liquidation by the CPP-NPA," Esperon said.

Esperon submitted a copy of Oplan Bushfire, reportedly a CPP document on a plan to purge the organization of suspected infiltrators.

He also turned over three books, "Breaking Through" by Joel Rocamora, "To Suffer Thy Comrades" by Robert Francis Garcia and "The Philippine Revolutionary Movement" by Luis Jalandoni of the communist-led National Democratic Front. Esperon said the books supported the military contention that it was the CPP-NPA that were behind the killings.

The commission is principally

REDS/ A10

Impartial probers in body sought

By Norman Bordadora

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to expand the membership of the commission looking into allegations of extrajudicial killings to include "independent and impartial" persons to enhance its credibility.

In a memorandum dated Sept. 14, the AI said the commission, headed by retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Melo, should also consider information from "nongovernment organizations, UN human rights monitoring bodies and mechanisms, families of victims and lawyers."

IMPARTIAL/ A10

Doc says 'Nicole' lacked injuries of abuse victim

By Tarra V. Quismundo

LAWYERS DEFENDING FOUR AMERICAN Marines in the Subic rape trial yesterday presented an expert witness who testified that complainant "Nicole" did not display injuries common to victims of sexual abuse.

Called to the stand, Dr. Teresita Sanchez, an obstetrician-gynecologist, told a Makati Regional Trial Court that bruises found on the arms, legs and genital area of Nicole were inconsistent with her accusations of rape against the US Marines.

Nicole had accused Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith of raping her while she was dead drunk in the back of a moving Starex van around 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 1, 2005, as his co-accused—Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis and S/Sgt. Chad Carpentier—cheered him on.

Smith took the stand last week and testified that he and Nicole had consensual sex in the van.

"This is an alleged victim of rape but

DOC SAYS/ A11

PUBLIC Prosecutor Hazel Valdez raises an objection during defense lawyer Ricardo Diaz's cross-examination of Dr. Teresita Sanchez in this artist's sketch. STEPH BRAVO

DOJ secretary retains panel of prosecutors

By Volt Contreras and Armand N. Nocum

THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS IN THE Subic rape trial reported back to court yesterday, still hurting from last week's word war with their disgruntled client "Nicole" and her mother.

The prosecutors said they were duty-bound to pursue the case even if they had lost the complainant's trust.

DOJ SECRETARY/ A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/18/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Catapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Sabio gets medical pass

Gordon offer to allow PCGG chair to go home rejected

By TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa

AFTER DETAINING HIM FOR A WEEK, THE SENATE HAS released Camilo Sabio to allow him to undergo a two-day medical checkup at the Makati Medical Center beginning today in view of his "precarious physical condition."

Sen. Richard Gordon granted the Presidential Commission on Good Government chair's request to undergo a "long scheduled checkup" at the start of the Senate hearing yesterday into the alleged losses of government-sequestered corporations.

Gordon, chair of the investigating committee on government corporations, said Sabio could even go home after his checkup on condition that he appear at the next hearing.

Sabio rejected this, however, insisting that he be returned to the Senate after the medical exam.

"The chair allows Chairman Sabio to have his checkup and let him stay at the hospital for as long as he wants. But I hope on his own honorable nature that I know that he had when I knew him before, and I hope he still does, he will come back on call," Gordon said shortly after the hearing began.

"And if he refuses, the warrant of arrest still subsists," he added.

Sabio, who had stood by the validity of Executive Order No. 1 which grants PCGG officials immunity from testifying in legislative, judicial and administrative proceedings turned down Gordon's offer, saying that he preferred to brought back to the Senate.

SABIO: Long scheduled checkup ROGER MARGALLO

"I will be here immediately on my word of honor [after the checkup]," he told reporters after the hearing, pointing out that if he went home after the checkup, he would be contradicting himself. "That would mean that I would give up the position that I have taken."

He added: "I will be back here. Then I'll brought to the Supreme Court for the oral arguments."

The high court has granted Sabio's petition for habeas corpus and set the oral arguments for Thursday.

Since his arrest by the Senate last Tuesday until his shouting match with Gordon at Thursday's hearing, Sabio's blood pressure had risen up to 160/100. It normalized at 110/80 over the weekend.

During his checkup, Sabio, 70, will be under guard by the Senate sergeant at arms.

Toward the end of the hearing, Sabio, who had a cordial exchange with Gordon and readily answered some questions unlike in previous hearings, thanked the senator for granting his request.

"I would like to thank you for allowing me to take my long scheduled executive checkup," the soft-spoken PCGG chief said.

Gordon, for his part, wished Sabio well. Both were delegates to the 1971 Constitutional Convention.

"The only reason we had a disagreement the other day was not anger, but perhaps passion to impose order," the senator said. "I remain your friend. Whether you accept that friendship or not, it's up to you."

"I hope Chairman Sabio, the checkup will be all right and you will be in excellent health for the next 100 years," he added.

Sabio replied: "Thank you, your honor, I'll always be your friend."

The Senate committees on government corporations and public services cited in contempt and issued warrants of arrest for Sabio, the four other PCGG commissioners and five Philcomsat Holdings Corp. executives on Monday last week after they skipped the hearings thrice in a row.

After failing to find them at their known addresses, Senate Sergeant at Arms Jose Balajadia said he had devised a new strategy to find Commissioners Ricardo Abcede, Nicasio Conti, Tereso Javier and Narciso Nario, and PHC executives Benito Araneta, Philip Brodett, Manuel Andal, Julio Jalandoni and Luis Lokin.

"For as long as the arrest order is there, it has no limits; it has no deadline. So it's going to be pursued wherever they are, whoever they are," he said in an interview, but declined to divulge the new tactic for operational reasons.

Abcede, however, said yesterday the Senate was "losing the battle" with the PCGG after Gordon allowed Sabio to leave detention for a medical checkup.

"I think they are losing the battle for public perception. They call themselves representatives of the people, they should be aware of public sentiment. And I think the public sentiment is to release Chairman Sabio and lift the warrants against us," Abcede told the INQUIRER in a phone interview from an undisclosed location.

Abcede said media interviews given by himself and Commissioner Nicasio Conti had swung public opinion in their favor.

Salonga: PCGG has no immunity

By Norman Bordadora

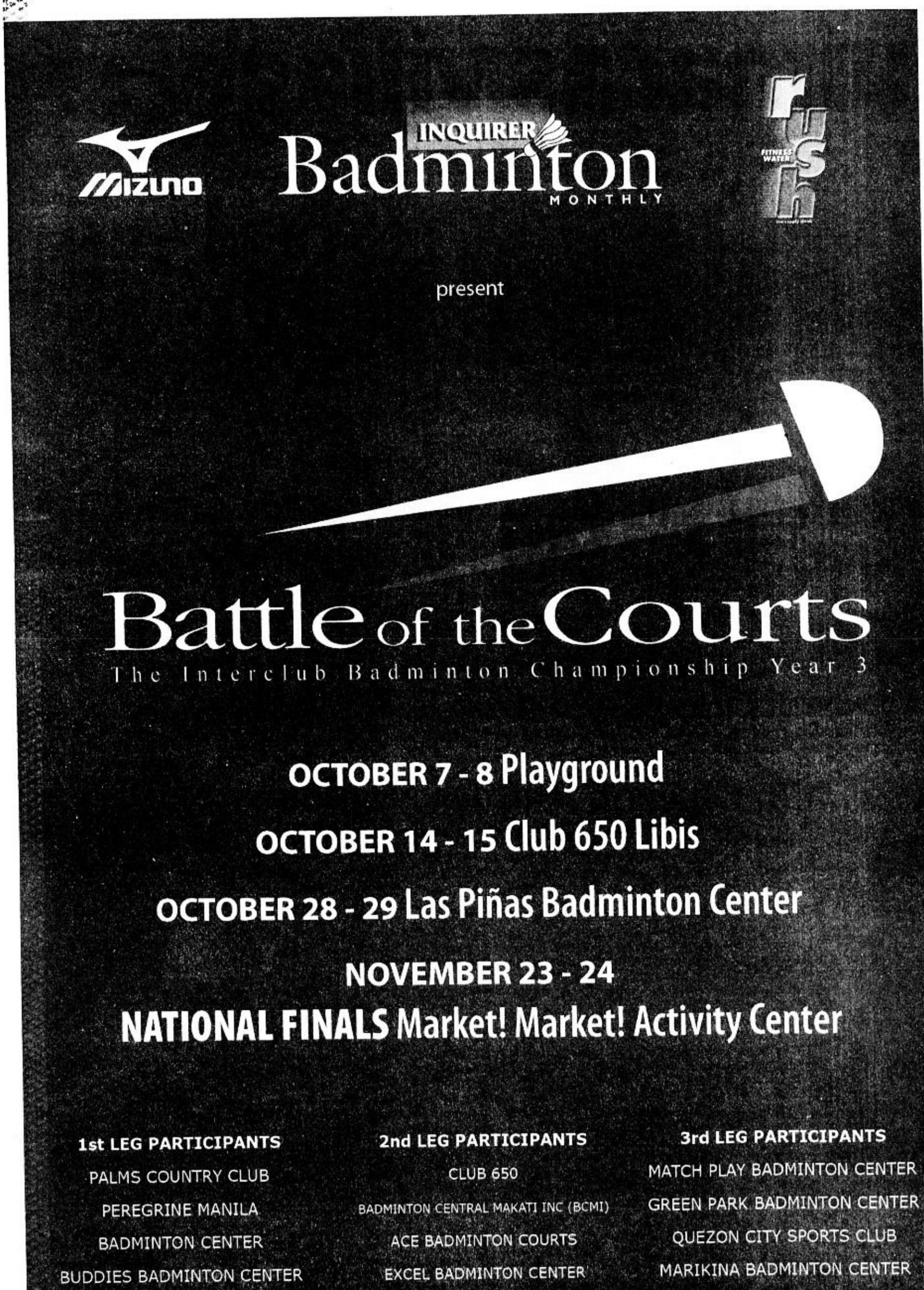
THE FOUNDING CHAIR OF THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government said yesterday it was not the intent of Executive Order No. 1 to exempt the PCGG head and its commissioners from a valid congressional inquiry.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga, the first PCGG chair, said it was he and then Commissioner Pedro Yap who drafted EO 1 that created the commission tasked with overseeing the recovery of the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies following the People Power revolution in 1986.

"The PCGG does not enjoy immunity from a valid congressional investigation. Otherwise, it would be lifting itself by its own bootstraps and arrogating unto itself a power it does not have," Salonga said in a message faxed to the INQUIRER.

"That was not the intent of EO 1," he said.

Salonga said EO 1 was not drafted by a Malacañang official. He said his appointment as first PCGG chair was announced by President Corazon Aquino on Feb. 26, 1986, along with those of her Cabinet members.



Bomb materials seized

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AT LEAST 20 sacks of ammonium nitrate, a chemical commonly used in making bombs, were intercepted by security forces at the port here yesterday.

Col. Antonio Supnet, chief of Task Force Zamboanga, said the shipment was seized aboard ML Katrina, a wooden-hulled vessel that came from a port in Jolo, an Abu Sayyaf stronghold.

Supnet said the chemicals, which were allegedly imported from France, were hidden inside rice and dried fish sacks.

The boat arrived at the port here at around 4 a.m.

Senior Supt. Angelito Casimiro, police chief for Western Mindanao, said the chemicals could be intended for the La Hermosa festival next month.

"That's our assessment," Casimiro said.

Casimiro said a number of suspects have been invited for questioning. He, however, refused to identify the suspects.

Ammonium nitrate is a highly volatile chemical compound largely used in making fertilizer and is the main ingredient used by the Abu Sayyaf to produce powerful bombs, the official said.

"We had received information that the chemicals will be used by the Abu Sayyaf for their terroristic attacks," said port police chief Maj. Frank Clavencillas.

He said there had been fears that the Abu Sayyaf could stage bombings on Oct. 12, when the largely Catholic enclave of Zamboanga is to mark an annual festival. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao, and AFP*

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Mr. Ramoncito Campos
Three-Time Olympian

Mr. Ramoncito Campos is one of the country's most outstanding athletes. He is a three-time Olympian, a member of the fabled Philippine basketball team of the 50s, and an inductee of the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Yet his illustrious career as a sportsman almost ended when a degenerative condition caused debilitating pain and irreparable damage to his knees. A veteran of many epic hard court battles, the 80-year-old Mr. Campos mapped out the best strategy for the toughest fight yet of his life.

Three years ago, Mr. Campos decided to have bilateral total knee replacement at the **Center for Joint Replacement Surgery** of **St. Luke's Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine**.

Today, Mr. Campos continues his passion for athletic excellence. He recently won as Golf Champion in the Senior's Category of the Meralco Chairman's Cup. "I should have decided to undergo surgery earlier," Mr. Campos says, smiling. "I could have won more championship trophies."

Cutting-edge in Orthopedics

St. Luke's Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine is the most modern and one of the best-staffed orthopedic facilities in the Philippines.

The Institute's staff of highly trained and respected specialists is complemented by state-of-the-art facilities for computer-navigated surgery involving spinal cases, ACL (an important ligament in the knee) reconstruction, total joint replacement and, recently, pelvic and complex fracture fixation that make precise placement of orthopedic implants possible.

The Institute offers the latest imaging technology (real-time fluoroscopy) that helps surgeons to perform precise orthopedic surgical procedures. Its introduction of minimally invasive surgical techniques in total joint replacement has resulted in less pain and shorter hospital stay for patients. It is staffed by specialists trained in prestigious international centers and who have excellent academic and clinical expertise. To date, the Institute has performed the most number of simple and complex spine, sports and total joint replacement surgical procedures in the country.

The Institute's Center for Joint Replacement Surgery (CJRS) is the only such center in the country that caters primarily to joint replacement surgical cases involving the knee, hip, shoulder, and ankle joints.

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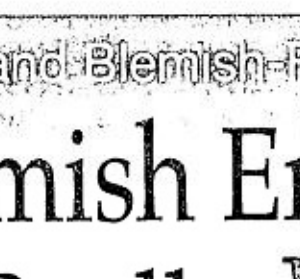
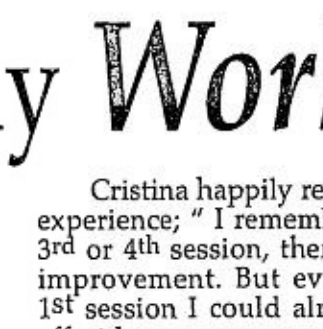
Picture-perfect skin can now be a reality with IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment. No other procedure has ever been developed that can accomplish so much with so little risk.

IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment helps banish freckles, dark spots and spider veins without a trace. Restaurateur Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez is one satisfied client. She relates, "Some skin problems I had were freckles and a bit of melasma. IPL gave me a more even complexion. My skin is fair that's why I easily get freckles. IPL helped remove the freckles and the melasma."

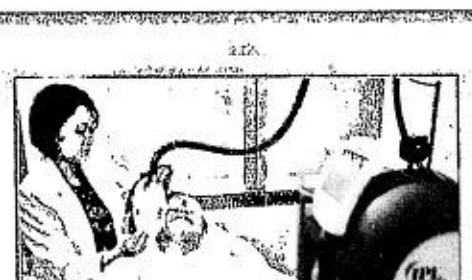

Cristina Romualdez

IPL is a non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere that sun damage or blemishes show. It uses the Intense Pulsed Light technology to correct a variety of skin conditions and skin imperfections: freckles, skin discoloration, signs of aging, age spots, unsightly spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other blemishes.


Carmi Martin

Cristina happily recalls her IPL experience; " I remember after the 3rd or 4th session, there was a big improvement. But even after the 1st session I could already see an effect because my pores tightened. Somebody told me my skin was glowing...and this was right after an IPL treatment! The best thing about it is there's no downtime. Since I like going to the beach and out of town, I'm always exposed to the sun. That's why I go for IPL treatments after an outing. I'm really happy with it!"

Another fan of IPL is actress/interior design consultant Carmi Martin. She happily relates: "I used to have an uneven skin tone because of pigmentation and freckles. After IPL, my skintone became even! In the past I'd always have to wear make-up because I was afraid to let people see me without it. Now, since I love going to Boracay, I can enjoy the sun and sea make-up free!"


Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

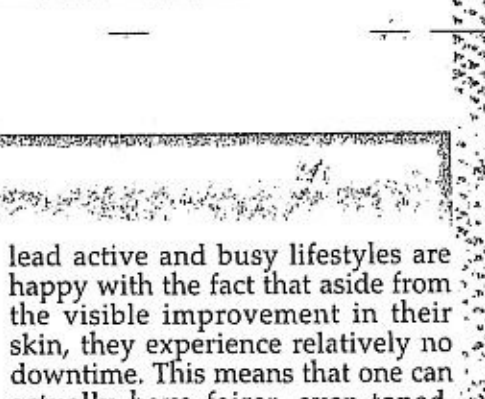
To restore an overall youthful look, IPL simultaneously treats a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. The result: younger-looking skin and a clearer, even complexion.

Actress Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo is all praises for this blemish eraser as well. "Since my skin is oily my problem has always been the eruption of acne," she reveals. When I started doing IPL, I noticed that my pores got smaller and I stopped getting breakouts as early as the 3rd treatment! Over time, my skin was looking clearer, and complexion-wise, so much better. Before, I couldn't leave the house without putting on some concealer on my blemishes. Now I can go out with only sunblock! I'm confident enough even without make-up because I know my skin is clear and even."

Cristina, Carmi and Dawn are only three of many satisfied clients who have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles and other skin discolorations. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned, glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day.

Now isn't this the best news for your skin?

To know more about IPL Photorejuvenation, just call Facial Care Centre at 892-SKIN. That's 892-7546.


Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo

GET 40% OFF IPL when you enroll on Sept. 18-23, 2006 only.

MILF leader warns of collapse of peace talks

By Jim Gomez

THE LEADER OF THE COUNtry's largest Muslim rebel group yesterday blamed the government for an impasse in Malaysian-brokered peace talks and said the negotiations could collapse unless the government takes them seriously.

The comments by Moro Islamic Liberation Front Chair Al Haj Murad underscored a precarious turn in attempts by the government and the guerrillas to peacefully settle a bloody, decades-long Muslim insurrection in the impoverished southern Mindanao region.

"If the government insists to dilly dally and treat the peace talks as a mere counterinsurgency tool, who can blame Muslim Filipinos if they choose other means to continue their legitimate struggle for freedom and self-determination?" Murad said in a statement.

"The MILF will stand by our

MURAD

people," he said. "The government must take responsibility for this breakdown of the talks."

At the heart of the conflict is the insurgents' demand for a homeland in Mindanao where minority-Muslim Filipinos could exercise control over a wide expanse of territory and its resources.

During the latest round of talks held Sept. 6-7 in Malaysia's capital of Kuala Lumpur, rebel negotiators rejected a government offer of some Mindanao areas where Filipino Muslims could exercise a measure of control subject to future "constitutional processes," Murad said.

Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu said such processes include the passage of a law allowing Muslim control over certain lands and compliance of any territorial agreement with the Constitution, which has been under constant threat of revision by President Macapagal-Arroyo and other politicians.

"This is a conditional offer that no real revolutionary group worthy of its name can accept," Murad said, rejecting a government position that "everything must be tailored fit to the Philippine Constitution."

Government chief negotiator Silvestre Afable Jr. said last week the rebels' demand was unconstitutional and unacceptable but the government would continue to propose options to break the impasse.

Afable appealed to Malaysia, Brunei and Libya—which have contributed troops to an international peacekeeping contingent safeguarding a ceasefire—to keep that force in Mindanao.

He also appealed to Washington, the European Union, Japan and other countries to continue backing the talks and called for vigilance "against those who may exploit the situation to foment conflict."

Kabalu warned that unless the government makes an unacceptable offer, "the talks might head to its final destiny, which is a collapse."

The peace talks are regarded as crucial by the Philippine and US governments, which hope to limit the areas where smaller al-Qaida-linked groups such as the Abu Sayyaf and an unspecified number of Indonesian militants can operate.

The United States and Australia have been deeply concerned over reports of terrorist training camps run by the Abu Sayyaf and the Indonesians in Mindanao. *AP*

US gov't notes 'discrimination' vs RP Muslims

By Nikko Dizon

THE "DISCRIMINATION" against Muslims by Christians has resulted in the "persistence of conflict in certain provinces," according to a US State Department report on the state of religious freedom in the Philippines.

"The generally amicable relationship among religions in society contributed to religious freedom; however, there is some ethnic, religious, and cultural discrimination against Muslims by Christians. This, combined with economic disparities, contributed to persistent conflict in certain provinces," according to the State Department's 2006 International Religious Freedom report on the state of religious freedom in the Philippines.

The State Department annually submits this report to the US Congress. This year, the report was released on Sept. 15 and could be accessed on the US Embassy web site, the US Embassy said.

The report said the Philippine government respected the right to religious freedom as provided by the Constitution, however, "historically, Muslims have been alienated socially from the Christian majority, and some ethnic and cultural discrimination against Muslims has been recorded."

Nearly 85 percent of the country's population are Roman Catholic, while a 2000 census showed that 5 to 9 percent of the population are Muslim.

The report noted that Muslims suffered from the bias of some employers who expected them to have "lower education levels."

They also experienced a difficult time renting rooms or getting jobs "if they use their real names or wear distinctive Muslims dress." These Muslims resorted to using Christian pseudonyms and Western clothing.

"Some Muslim religious leaders asserted that Muslims suffered from economic discrimination," the report said.

"Predominantly Muslim provinces in Mindanao lagged far behind the rest of the country in most aspects of socioeconomic development. Poverty levels in the ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) were almost twice as high as the national average, with per capita income of $285 (P15,760) per year," it added.

The report also said that many Muslims claimed they were underrepresented in senior civilian and military positions, as well in national government institutions.

On a positive note, the report cited a shift in attitudes among Filipinos based on a survey conducted last year by the Social Weather Station (SWS).

The survey "showed that 63 percent of Filipinos viewed Islam and Muslims favorably, an increase from past years. The survey also found that 67 percent of Filipinos believe Islam was a peaceful religion, and 44 percent agreed that Muslims were as trustworthy as any other Filipinos."

The reintegration of some 7,500 former fighters of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) into the armed forces and police also "helped reduce suspicion between Christians and Muslims," the report said.

Muslim leaders to discuss gender equality

By Pennie Azarcon de la Cruz

DOES ISLAM CONSIDER MEN and women as equals? What does the Qur'an say about abortion, polygamy, forced and arranged marriages and women's rights?

At least 50 Muslim religious leaders, Sharia judges and lawyers, women's rights activists, members of the academe and local officials from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) will come together for a three-day dialogue starting today to discuss religious beliefs and cultural practices that affect the role of men and women in Muslim society.

Dubbed "Treading the Islamic Path to Gender Equality," the dialogue being held at the Imperial Palace Suites in Quezon City will surface manifestations of gender bias among Muslims and counter these with a discussion of progressive texts and interpretations of the Qur'an, said lawyer Clara Rita Padilla, executive director of EnGendeRights, one of the organizers of the dialogue.

The body, she added, hopes to come up with a statement of unity and a list of resolutions and recommendations that might eventually be integrated into the Sharia and the Code of Muslim Personal Laws (CMPL) after a series of local and national dialogues.

"This is a great opportunity for Muslim leaders to discuss gender issues and ways to achieve equality between men and women with Islam as the basic foundation," Padilla said.

Tausug lawyer Raissa Jajurie, the Mindanao coordinator of the law NGO Saligan (for Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal), said Muslim women have identified four main issues that should be prioritized in the dialogue. These are: women's rights within marriage, including polygamy and arranged marriages; abortion; violence against women and children, and political participation. Muslim men are allowed to have up to four wives, while arranged marriages are still common, with girls considered marriageable as soon as they reach puberty which, Jajurie pointed out, could be as young as 9 years old.

The four priority concerns may have contributed to the adverse situation of women in the ARMM, said Padilla. The region has the highest maternal mortality and incidence of poverty and malnutrition in the country, with an average household size of 6.13, the highest nationwide.

Openly questioning and discussing Muslim practices have never been done before, Jajurie said, because "it is very difficult for ordinary Muslims to differentiate between what has been ordained by God and what is merely based on customs."

People also tend to look at Islam as "monolithic, when in fact, there are different schools of thought regarding what have become cultural ways and practices," she added.

"The macho factor" has prevented a more productive discussion of these customs as well, noted Maduh Damsani, regional director of the Population Commission in Davao. "Muslim men tend to feel threatened when talks veer toward the role and status of men and women, although I believe there are now enough men willing to listen to suggested changes," said this founder of MR. GAD, a man's group in Davao that stands for Men's Responsibility on Gender and Development.

"What is important is that now, we are starting to talk about these issues," Damsani added.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 19, 2006
24th Week in Ordinary Time
Januarius

1st Reading: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31
Gospel: Luke 7:11-17

A little later Jesus went to a town called Naim and many of his disciples went with him—a great number of people. As he reached the gate of the town, a dead man was being carried out. He was the only son of his mother and she was a widow; there followed a large crowd of townspeople.

On seeing her, the Lord had pity on her and said, "Don't cry." Then he came up and touched the stretcher and the men who carried it stopped. Jesus then said, "Young man, awake, I tell you." And the dead man got up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. A holy fear came over them all and they praised God saying, "A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people." This news spread out in the Jewish country and the surrounding places.

Commentary

We have all been baptized into the Spirit of Jesus to honor our God, our Father. We are citizens of God, part of the Body of Christ. Those with the most authority or power are those who serve the most members of the Body and we are to be servants, first and foremost. Jesus, the servant of God looks first for those most in need: a widow whose only son has died. In fact with no one to care for her, she would have died too. And Jesus raises the son and brings them both back to life in the community.

Do we live to bring and share life with others? Are we the prophets of life not just in word, but also in action?

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Ateneo de Zamboanga grads to hold elections

THE ATENEO DE ZAMBOANGA UNIVERSITY Metro Manila Association will hold its election of officers on Sept. 30, 2006 at the Archipelago Building, North Avenue, Quezon City.

Alumni president Paulino Pe said registration starts at 3 p.m. and election will follow at 4 p.m.

For details, call ADZUMMAA Secretariat at 9269056 to 58, Atty. Gues Doroja CP# 0917-5285560 or Atty. Cesar Sunaz at CP# 0917-8103553.

Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 18 ISSUE, a story on Page A25 of the Metro section—"Showdown at ISM today"—erroneously described Sen. Jamby Madrigal as a parent of a student at the International School Manila. The senator is an aunt—not a mother—of four female students at ISM.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a story on Page A4—"UN Security Council votes to hear Burma issue"—misspelled the name of the detained leader of the nonviolent movement for human rights and democracy in Burma (Myanmar). The correct spelling of the leader's name is Aung San—not Sang—Suu Kyi.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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GMA back but not through Naia 3

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO RE-turned home in the wee hours yesterday, but did not get to pass through Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport as she had wished.

Back from a nine-day five-nation trip to Europe and the Americas, the President looked tired as she made her way out of Naia's Centennial Terminal, or Terminal 2, shortly after her plane touched down just past 3:30 a.m.

She did not give an arrival statement.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who led Malacañang officials in welcoming the President home, told reporters Ms Arroyo would be visiting Terminal 3 "anytime soon" but not on her arrival.

"Pero hindi ngayon.. walang kaluluwa doon (But not now... there's no one around there)," Ermita said.

Airport officials have said it would take between six and eight months to complete construction and repair works at Terminal 3, which the government finally took control of last week following a long legal battle with its builder, Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco).

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo waves on arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport early Monday from Hawaii. She is escorted down a Philippine Airlines plane by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, at right, and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. JESS YUSON

While abroad, the President had expressed a desire to land at Naia 3 on her return to herald the takeover.

The government took control of the terminal after it got the go-signal from the Court of Appeals to pay Piatco a down payment of P3 billion and received a writ of possession from the Pasay City Regional Trial Court. This rendered moot the international court decision out of Singapore that ordered the government to hand the expropriated terminal back to Piatco.

With Ms Arroyo's return, she has become the most-traveled Chief Executive of the country, topping former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Her latest trip was her 44th in her five years in office. She has been to 31 countries since she assumed the presidency in 2001.

On the other hand, Ramos took a total of 35 foreign trips during his term from 1992 to 1998. Having flown to more than 40 countries, however, he is still the president with the most number of countries visited.

The most visited country by both presidents was the United States. Ms Arroyo has been to the US seven times compared to Ramos' five.

Japan was the second most visited country by both presidents. Ms Arroyo has been there five times, while Ramos went there four times.

Among the countries visited by Ramos but not by President Arroyo were Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Burma (Myanmar), the Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Scotland, Senegal, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

Ramos during his term was highly criticized for taking trips in the face of the country's economic problems. In January 1998, heeding the clamor to forego foreign trips, he called off a visit to Switzerland. His 35th and last trip, to France and Senegal, was made in the last weeks of his presidency. *With Mel Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research*

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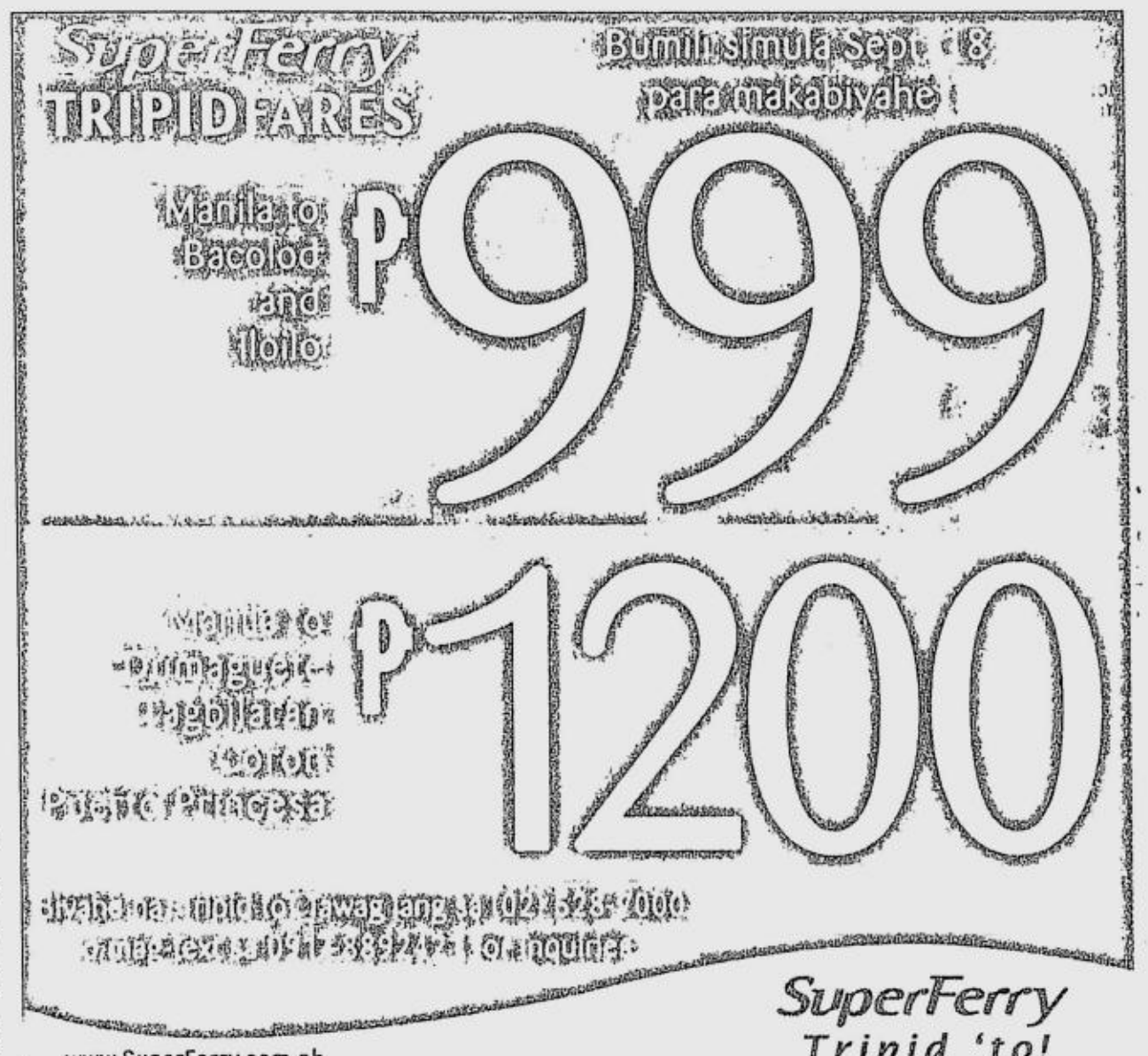

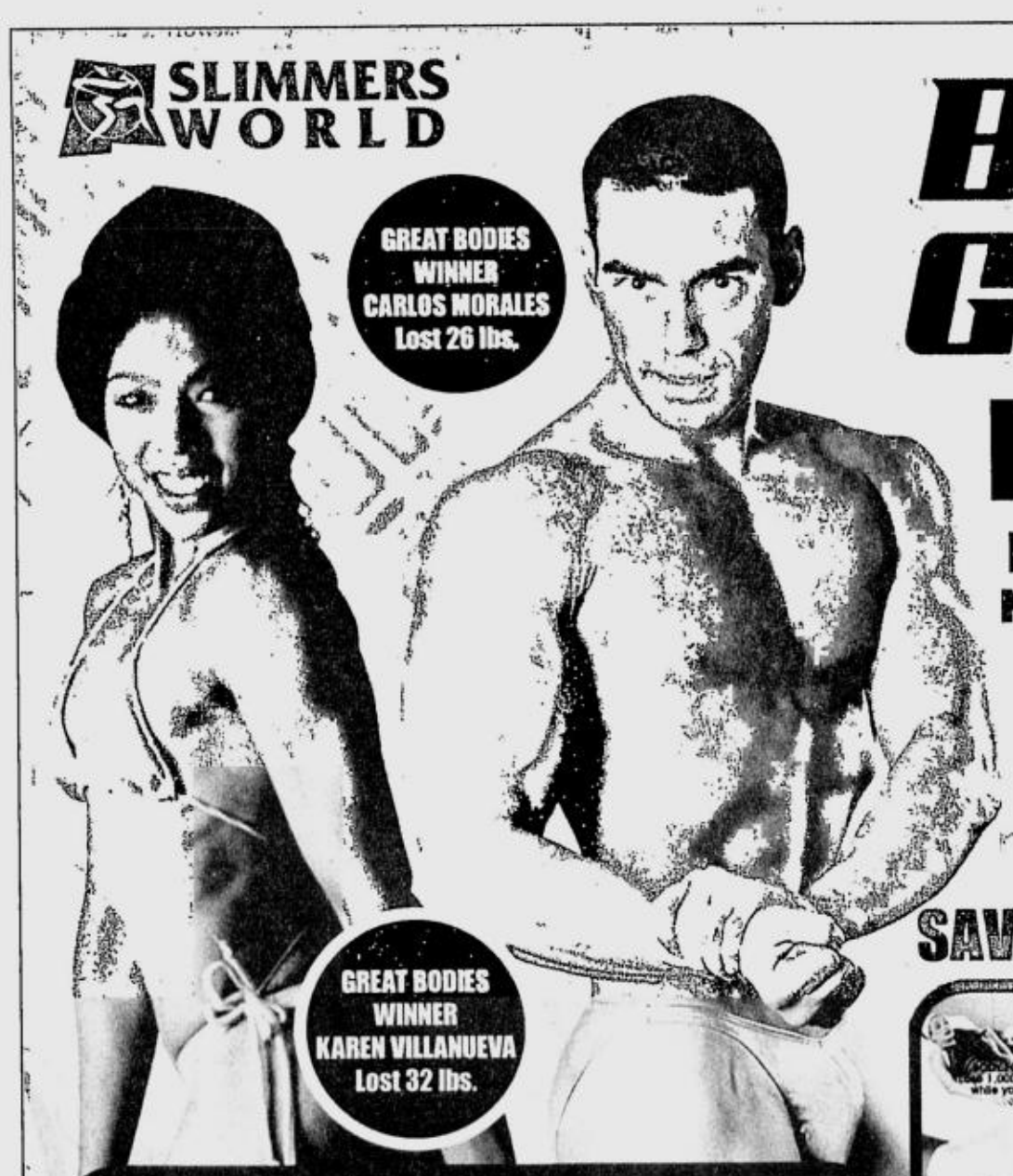

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Iranian refugee takes oath as Filipino: I feel great

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY—STANDING next to a Philippine flag and suppressing his tears, Iranian refugee Buick Farahmand Bahador took his oath as a Filipino yesterday, ending a 27-year wait for a new homeland since he fled the turmoil that accompanied the fall of the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in 1979. "I feel great," said Bahador, 55, as he stepped out of the packed court room of Judge Philbert Iturralde wearing a light blue Barong Tagalog.

"His case is significant. It shows there are doable solutions for refugees. This is a milestone," said Rico Salcedo, head of office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Philippines.

Salcedo, together with country legal officer Anna Marie Siscar and Henrik Nordentoft, UNHCR deputy regional representative, helped facilitate the grant of Bahador's new citizenship.

Salcedo said more than 100 refugees of various nationalities are in the Philippines waiting to see their journey end like Bahador's.

The Philippines is among the few signatories to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and has "a long humanitarian tradition" in that respect, he said.

Nordentoft said that out of 1.6 million cases of concern in Asia and the Pacific, about 800,000 have refugee status, mostly those from Myanmar, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Melaida, Bahador's Filipino wife of 30 years, was pleased to see her husband's longtime wish of becoming a Filipino finally come true."

Asked by the judge if he ever left the country, Bahador shook his head: "I have not. I don't have a visa or a passport."

He related his four-year stint in Japan where he first applied for refugee status, afterwhich he returned to the Philippines, where he had studied to complete a Civil Engineering course.

Bahador said he fears returning to Iran because he fled the employ of the Shah and faced a court-martial in 1978 for marrying a Filipina. He has also since left the Islamic religion.

"The Philippines is my home. My wife and son are here. We are not discriminated against here," he said.

Home is Barangay Mabiga in Mabalacat, Pampanga, where Melaida was born and where the family maintains a store and Internet café.

What are his plans? To bring his old mother to the Philippines, call his four step-brothers in Iran and savor the joy of being a Filipino by being father, husband and Rotarian leader.

"*Siyempre, gusto ko dito* (Of course, I like it here)," he beamed.

BAHADOR: I am a Filipino...The Philippines is my home.
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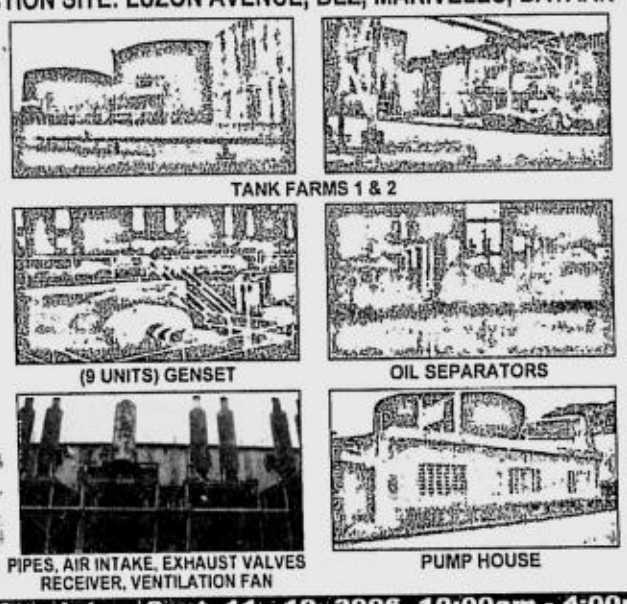

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100 YEARS AFTER

Filipinos poised to surpass Japanese in Hawaii

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HONOLULU—A HUNDRED years after the first 15 "sacada" (sugarcane plantation workers) arrived here to work in the sugar plantations, Filipinos are poised to surpass the Japanese as Hawaii's second biggest ethnic group next only to the Caucasians.

According to Danilo Agsalog, an executive director of the Oahu Workforce Investment Board, within the next five years, Filipinos would make up 30 percent of Hawaii's population, 28 percent, Japanese while Caucasians would account for only 35 percent, The local islanders account for less than 10 percent.

"There is no slowdown in Filipino migration here while the number of incoming Japanese are declining," said Agsalog, noting that Filipinos take up more than half of the 4,000 annual immigrant quota for Hawaii.

Agsalog hails from Sinait a small town in Ilocos province where 9 out of 10 Filipinos in Hawaii come from. He came to the islands in 1979 and his first job was as a plantation worker.

There are 3 million Filipinos in the US, of which 10 percent are based in Hawaii.

Most Filipinos live comfortable lives in the US compared to other ethnic groups.

In her speech before the Filipino community last Saturday, President Macapagal-Arroyo noted that the Filipino-Americans were mostly living an affluent life in the US surpassing the US average in education levels, the median income and median home values.

With its growing population, Agsalog said it was little wonder that Filipinos have become a potent force in Hawaiian politics (Ms Arroyo paid tribute to Benjamin Cayetano who was the first state governor of Filipino descent in US history). There are currently five Filipinos in Hawaii's House of Representatives but Agsalog said that number could easily have gone up if Filipinos in Hawaii were more cohesive.

"There are many rich Filipinos here but everybody has their own *manok (chicken)*. Filipinos can dominate Hawaii politics if only they would spend on a common candidate. Most Filipinos have not adopted to the American way of politics where the candidates solicit funds for their campaign. In the Philippines, only the rich can run because they have to spend for their own campaign," he said.

Agsalog observed that Filipinos now had more opportunities in Hawaii than when he first arrived in the 1970s. "Now, they have computer-related tech jobs. Filipinos themselves have become business owners when they used to be just employees," he said.

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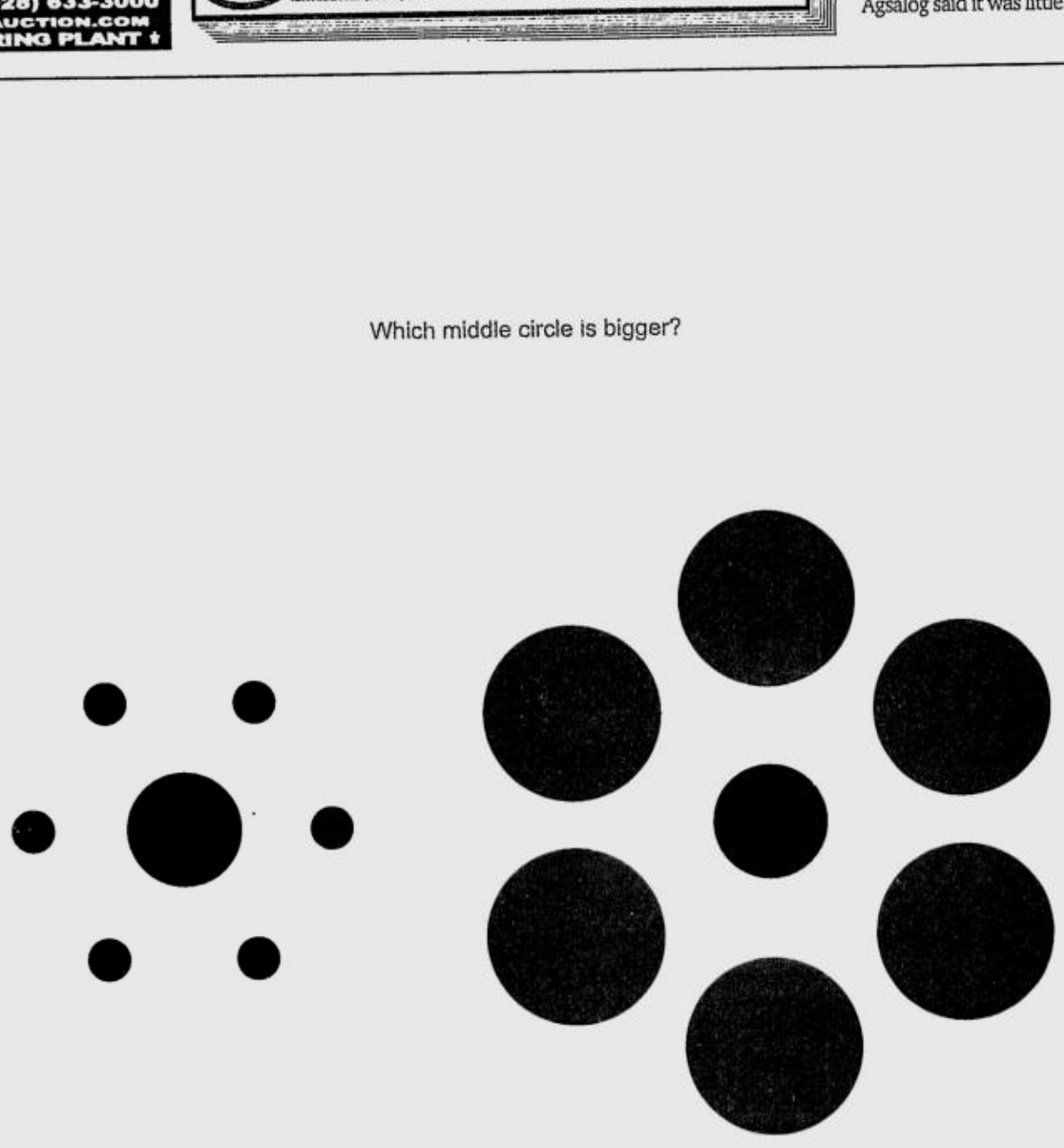

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MERCADO: Dubbed 'Frank Sinatra of the Philippines' ROGER MARGALLO

DOJ now looking into oil smuggling angle

By Armand N. Nocum

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS LOOKING into the possibility that oil smuggling could have caused the sinking and subsequent oil spill of the ship M/T Solar 1 off the island of Guimaras on Aug. 11.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday ordered the DOJ panel looking into the oil spill to investigate whether the practice of "paihi"—the siphoning of fuel from one ship to another on the high seas—caused the oil spill.

In an interview, Gonzalez said ship captain Norberto Aguro, his crew as well as some officials of Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., owner of Solar I, will be called back to testify on the smuggling angle.

"That's an angle that they are looking at now because there have been many complaints of pilferage and smuggling through the "paihi" process; except in this case, the boat sank. All these circumstances point to smuggling," he said.

The reported findings of an underwater survey of the sunken tanker seem to add weight to the smuggling theory.

In a memorandum to Gonzalez, Undersecretary Fidel Exconde Jr. said the Japanese ship Shinsei Maru that undertook survey of the ill-fated Solar I reported the following:

- hole of triangular shape in the port side of Solar I
- scratches on different parts of the vessel
- open valves in some compartments where transported oil is stored.

"These findings bolster the theory that another ship was traveling alongside Solar I when it sank and it probably caused the triangular hole in the hull of Solar I," Exconde said. If this is true, there is a possibility the two ships were engaged in 'paihi' operations," he added.

"The strong waves couldn't have caused the holes," Gonzalez said, reacting to the Exconde memorandum.

Eddie Mercado signs off at 68

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

VETERAN TV HOST EDDIE MERCADO, once dubbed "Frank Sinatra of the Philippines," passed away yesterday at 3:30 p.m. due to complications from a massive stroke he suffered in 2004. He was 68.

His wife Marivic told INQUIRER that Mercado was rushed to the Medical Center in Parañaque on Thursday after a mild heart attack. "Then his kidneys and vital organs started shutting down. We knew it was only a matter of time."

Mercado had six children—Coily, with first wife Cynthia, whom he divorced; Bobbi and Candy, with partner Vicky; and CJ, Chevy and Eric, with Marivic.

Marivic described Mercado as "the country's best [TV and events] host, a legendary broadcaster and a loving father and husband."

He started in radio at age 13, she said. "That's 53 years in the business."

"It's the end of an era," said musician Ramon Jacinto of Mercado's passing. "He was very old school. He worked as deejay on dzRJ four years ago and he always prepared very well before going on air."

Boots Anson-Roa, Mercado's co-host on the IBC 13 game show "Winner Take All" in 1972, agreed: "Unparalleled—undisputed as the country's best male emcee. He was always cool and even-tempered."

Marivic related that ABS-CBN host Christine Bersola-Babao made her first TV appearance in 1988 on "Chairman of the Board," a TV show hosted by Mercado with Bobby Ledesma and Bert Nievera. "When she married Julius Babao in 2003, as our gift on their wedding day, Eddie sang 'The Way You Look Tonight.'"

"I will always remember his voice, generosity of spirit, wit and brilliance," Babao said.

"He has touched many lives," added Marivic. "Our family will forever be grateful to everyone who helped us, financially and through prayers, during his illness."

Just two weeks ago, Mercado was featured on the GMA 7 show "Wish Ko Lang," which highlighted a tribute previously given in his honor at Hard Rock Café. During the show, he was also given an Aficionado perfume business showcase worth P100,000 and a therapy session package at the Makati Medical Center.

Marivic said Mercado will be cremated today at Trinity Funeral Homes in Sucat, Parañaque. "The wake will follow at the Alabang New Life Christian Center. When our youngest son, Eric, arrives from the United States, we plan to scatter his ashes in Anilao, Batangas, his favorite place."

Nazareno laid to rest today

THE MILITARY WILL give state funeral honors to former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Joselin Nazareno when he is laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani today.

Nazareno, who was former President Joseph Estrada's first military chief, succumbed to complications from liver cancer on Sept. 13. He was 63.

Estrada, who is under "house arrest" in his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, was expected at the necrological rites on the last day of the wake at the Evangelical Church in the Camp Aguinaldo military headquarters.

The military has reserved a slot for Estrada to speak after Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

But a check with the Sandiganbayan showed there was no formal request from Estrada's camp to attend the wake.

His family led by former First Lady now senator Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, sons Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito was also expected to attend the wake last night.

The ousted president has earlier issued a statement condoling with Nazareno's family.

Nazareno's remains were brought to Camp Aguinaldo on Sept. 13 for a wake attended by military honors.

Nazareno, who served as chief of staff from 1998 to 1999, was appointed by Estrada as ambassador to Pakistan when he retired.

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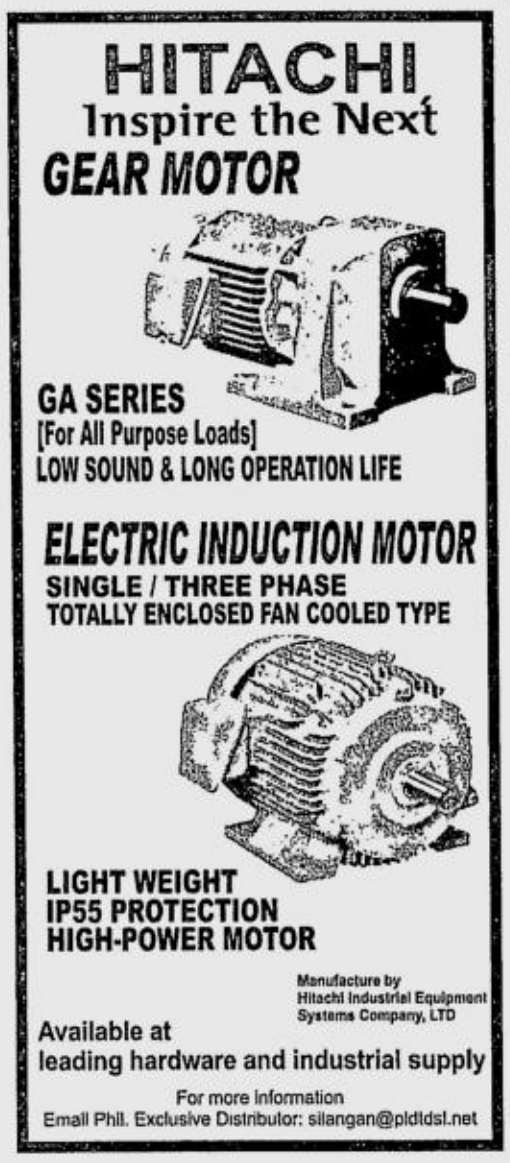

AN INVITATION

Everyone is invited to a triduum of Masses in honor of St. Padre Pio, from September 21, Thursday to September 23, Saturday at 12:00 NN at the Chapel of Sts. Padre Pio and Philomena, 4/F Goodwill Building, 393 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Bel-Air Village, Makati City.

The Celebrant for the triduum will be the famous healing priest, *Fr. Teofilo Rustia*. The Novena to Padre Pio and Holy Rosary will be prayed before the Masses.

Please come with your loved ones and friends to this special grace-filled triduum.

Thank you.

THE CHAPEL OF STS. PADRE PIO & PHILOMENA

Toxic fumes down Guimaras villagers

Pollution case filed vs Petron, ship firm

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY lodged a pollution case against Petron Corp., the country's largest oil refiner, and Sunshine Maritime Development Corp. (SMDC) for the oil spill in Guimaras, whose damaging effect, experts say, would continue to be felt by the fishing-dependent province in the coming years.

Petron and SMDC were charged before the Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB) with violating Republic Act No. 9275 or the Clean Water Act and Presidential Decree No. 979, which deals with marine pollution.

The regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources yesterday filed the complaint before the PAB, a quasi-judicial body under the DENR, after a month of assessing the environmental damage caused by the oil spill.

"The PAB can now take cognizance of the pollution case," PAB legal counsel Jonas Leones told reporters yesterday.

Jurisdiction issues

He said the board, which has been criticized for failing to initiate action on the Guimaras case, could not move until a party had filed a case against Petron and SMDC.

He said there were issues of jurisdiction as the Philippine Coast Guard and the Maritime Industry Authority were also investigating the case, and the PAB could only act once a pollution case had been lodged by another entity.

Petron had hired SMDC, owner of the MT Solar I, to transport 2.19 million liters of bunker fuel oil from its refinery in Limay, Bataan, to Zamboanga del Sur.

The tanker sank 24 km off Guimaras on Aug. 11 and has leaked as much as 1.3 million liters of oil, according to the Department of Science and Technology.

An official of the Department of Justice has recommended criminal charges against SMDC and the tanker's skipper, Capt. Norberto Aguro, while Petron could face civil liabilities.

The PAB will conduct its first hearing on the Guimaras case on Thursday.

Penalties

The Clean Water Act imposes a penalty of P10,000 to P200,000 for every day of violation, on top of possible closure or suspension of operations of erring parties.

Failure to undertake cleanup operations "willfully or through gross negligence," is punishable by two to four years' imprisonment and a fine of P50,000 to P100,000 per day of violation, according to Section 28 of RA 9275.

If the failure to clean up results in "serious injury or loss of life and/or irreversible contamination of surface, ground, coastal and marine water," the violators could be punished with imprisonment of 6 to 12 years and a fine of P500,000 per day.

Violation of PD 979 could also result in imprisonment of 30 days to one year and/or a penalty of P200 to P10,000.

The PAB, which handles all pollution cases that result in environmental damage, handed out a penalty of P10.4 million to Australian mining firm Lafayette Phils. Inc. for two mine spills that reportedly caused a fishkill off Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay last year.

From page A1

one death was reported in Sitio Banakan, Barangay Cabalagnan," said the report.

The DOH and the UP National Poison Management and Control Center found that the level of hydrogen sulfide in the air in Cabalagnan was 537.9 to 2,145 parts per million (ppm) while in La Paz it was 13.2 to 165 ppm.

"These levels exceeded the US-Environmental Protection Agency Provisional Remediation Goal (US-EPA PRG), which is 0.00071 ppm," said the report signed by Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.

Others who signed the report included Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, UP Visayas Chancellor Glen Aguilar, Presidential Assistant for Western Visayas Rafael Coscolluela and Glenn Rabonza, National Disaster Coordinating Council executive officer.

At a press conference on Friday, the DOH said Barangays Nauway in Sibunag and Butconaway in Nueva Valencia towns had the highest levels of toxic fumes, primarily hydrogen sulfide.

Terrible smell

Teacher Gemma Garde and 7-year-old student Jeilyn Albaña were at the Paaralan ng Buhay ng Tando when they began vomiting after a strong gust of wind smelling of rotten eggs entered their classroom by the shoreline of Tando.

This was a week after the Solar I sank 23.4 km off La Paz on Aug. 11, smearing neighboring Tando and Cabalagnan with black, sticky bunker fuel oil.

"The smell was terrible. It became worse on Aug. 16 when the sun heat up the sand and the smell of oil was everywhere," said Priscilla Galvan, teacher in charge of the school that was 5 to 7 meters from the shore.

The pupils moved out only on Aug. 22 because they had to take the first grading exams. By then, the rest of the pupils and the four teachers were suffering from headaches and coughing—symptoms also found in some of Tando's 204 households with a population of more than 1,000.

Cabalagnan, La Paz and Tando have a combined population of 3,500 to 4,000.

Ninety-two families or 432 people from Sitios Sumirib, Luzaran, Tigcalayo, Pototan and Alman Sur in La Paz have been evacuated since Aug. 30. Tando evacuated on Sept. 13 nine families or 45 people living within 100 meters from the shoreline.

Loss of consciousness

Felicito Lozarita, provincial health officer, said blood samples taken by his staff from two patients showed the presence of hydrogen sulfide. "Toxicologists took 789 blood samples and we are expecting the results within the week," he said.

Brief exposure to high concentrations of hydrogen sulfide (greater than 500 ppm) could result in loss of consciousness and possibly death. *(See "In the Know" on this page.)*

"In most cases, the person appears to regain consciousness without any other effects. However, in many individuals, there may be permanent or long-term effects such as headaches, poor attention span, poor memory and poor motor function. Exposure to low concentrations of hydrogen sulfide may cause irritation to the eyes, nose or throat. It may also cause difficulty in breathing for some asthmatics," the ATSDR said.

Hydrogen sulfide does not accumulate in the body, but repeated or prolonged exposure has been reported to cause low blood pressure, headaches, nausea, loss of appetite, weight loss, ataxia, eye-membrane inflammation and chronic cough.

"Neurologic symptoms, including psychological disorders, have been associated with chronic exposure. Chronic exposure may be more serious for children because of their potential longer latency period," the report said.

Residents exposed to the toxic fumes from villages affected by the oil spill are exhibiting these symptoms.

Top complaints

The DOH-UP report noted that the top five clinical complaints in Cabalagnan, La Paz and Tando were dizziness (65.5 percent), headaches (44.2 percent), body malaise (34.5 percent), numbness (31.0 percent) and coughs (24.1 percent).

"Significant physical exam findings were dermatologic in nature (17.2 percent) and tearing of the eyes (10.3 percent)," it said.

Hydrogen sulfide is a byproduct of many industrial processes, including petroleum refining, tanning, mining, wood pulp processing, rayon manufacturing, sugar-beet processing, and hot-asphalt paving.

It is used to produce sulfur, sulfuric acid and heavy water for nuclear reactors.

Aromatic hydrocarbons

The DOH-UP report also found that the levels of aromatic hydrocarbons exceeded the allowable limit of the US-EPA PRG.

The health department and the UP unit sampled ambient air not only for hydrogen sulfide gas but also for aromatic hydrocarbons such as benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and xylene from Cabalagnan and La Paz.

The team also tested the drinking water (deep well), surface water, soil for polyaromatic hydrocarbons and metals (lead, nickel and arsenic) from Tando and La Paz. Crustaceans in Tando were also tested.

Chemical dispersants

A La Paz official, who asked not to be named, said chemical dispersants supplied by oil refiner Petron Corp., which had chartered the Solar I, were being prepared on the shoreline while the tests were being conducted.

After the warning from doctors, Petron immediately had the chemical dispersants removed.

The move may also explain why the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other government agencies reported less air pollution in the three barangays, according to the village official.

Carlos Tan, Petron's health, safety and environment manager, disputed the DOH and UP findings on Sunday.

"We never, never, never used chemical dispersants on the shoreline. Dispersants were used in the spill area in the water, following the rules of the Coast Guard. And Petron was not spraying. It may be the Coast Guard or the other service providers," Tan said in a telephone interview.

"We want to get the details of that report, and what methods they used in testing. If you look at it, the ones doing the test should have died given that much amount of hydrogen sulfide in the air," Tan said.

He said the source of the hydrogen sulfide fumes could have been the bunker fuel oil that reached the shores of the three villages.

As part of the delineation of duties in the oil spill cleanup, the Coast Guard is in charge of offshore operations while Petron supervises on-shore, Tan said.

Cleanup work in Tando, Lucmayan, San Roque, San Antonio and La Paz resumed on Friday although the DOH ordered a halt in activities on Sept. 11 because 950 hired laborers lacked protective gear.

The workers, who were paid P300 a day, wore rubber boots, gloves and ordinary masks instead of the DOH-required full-face masks with air-purifying respirators and chemical-resistant clothing that includes overalls, gloves and steel-toed boots with boot covers.

Tan told the INQUIRER on Friday that the DOH had said work could resume as long as workers used the recommended respirators, 499 of which were distributed on Thursday.

The INQUIRER checked with the regional health office but personnel there said there was no order from the DOH central office to resume work and that there was no report certifying that the air in the affected areas was already clean.

Alberto Galvan, a Tando councilor, said barangay officials decided to resume work because the residents hired by Petron were complaining that they had no more money to buy food.

"We are hungry. If there is no work, what allowance will the children bring to school?" Galvan said.

In Manila, Duque said Friday that the cleanup of the shores of Guimaras had resumed after 1,000 face masks were sent to cleaners there.

The health secretary said the masks, gloves and boots would protect the workers from inhaling or coming into contact with toxic chemicals, such as hydrogen sulfide and aromatic hydrocarbons.

About 600 more masks have been ordered, he said.

Duque said that the cleaners would be working in four- to five-hour shifts to minimize their exposure to chemicals.

The DOH also ordered that the workers be limited to those aged 20 to 50 years.

About P2.5 million worth of vitamin B complex tablets was also bought by the DOH for the workers to help them counter the ill effects of hydrogen sulfide.

IN THE KNOW

Hydrogen sulfide is a flammable, colorless gas that smells like rotten eggs. It can be found in crude petroleum, volcanic gases and hot springs, and is produced by human and animal waste. Bacterial breakdown of organic matter produces hydrogen sulfide, which is why low levels of the substance can be found in a person's mouth and gastrointestinal tract.

Hydrogen sulfide also results from industrial activities like food processing and petroleum refinement. It can appear as liquid waste.

The World Health Organization's air quality guideline for hydrogen sulfide is 150 micrograms (0.15 milligrams) per cubic meter for more than 24 hours of exposure.

The organization listed the following effects of hydrogen sulfide at different concentrations:

Exposure (in mg per cubic meter)	Effects
2.8	bronchial constriction in asthmatic individuals
5	increased eye complaints
7 or 14	decreased oxygen uptake
5 to 29	eye irritation
28	fatigue, appetite loss, headache, irritability, poor memory, dizziness
over 140	olfactory paralysis
over 560	respiratory distress
700 or more	death

Exposure to hydrogen sulfide in liquid form can cause frostbite.

According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the US Department of Health and Human Services, hydrogen sulfide is heavier than air. Thus, children, who are shorter than adults, can be exposed to more of it than their elders. Hydogen sulfide in high levels also deadens the sense of smell, making people unaware that they have been exposed to the toxic substance.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Australia extends aid to victims of oil spill

From page A1

land province, which have been affected by the oil spill caused by the sinking of the MT Solar I.

The tanker sank in rough seas southwest of Guimaras on Aug. 11, spilling some of its bunker fuel oil with an estimated volume of 2.19 million liters and forcing hundreds of people to leave their coastal homes.

The Australian fund will be used to provide shelter, food and school supplies for children in the worst-affected areas. The money would also be used to fund day-care centers, tents for temporary shelter, medicine, water and sanitation equipment, an embassy statement said.

According to the Unicef study, many families have remained in the temporary shelters and are in need of basic supplies.

The oil spill has also disrupted school activities and teaching services, and health services are already "overextended in meeting the needs of affected communities," the statement said.

It has affected residents in 58 villages of Guimaras and the nearby province of Iloilo, and threatens 37 more towns in Iloilo and two other provinces, according to the latest figures released by the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

The spill has damaged 1,143 hectares of marine reserves, 234 km of coastline, 478 ha of mangroves and nearly 16 sq km of coral reefs, the NDCC said.

It said P68.65 million had been spent so far to assist displaced residents and to clean up the environment. There was no immediate estimate available of the total cost of cleanup operations.

Turnover

Last week, Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Tony Hely turned over his government's donation to Unicef's senior program coordinator, Colin Davis.

"Unicef is grateful for the assistance of the Australian government. This will help keep children from the affected areas in schools and it will assist those families who have been displaced with food and other household supplies," Davis said in the statement.

Hely said Australia "will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with the government and other donors in assessing longer-term development needs of Guimaras."

Reports from Nikko Dizon and AP

MIRANT DepED Adopt A School PETRON FOUNDATION INQUIRER Be Proud. Be Bilingual English Today www.english-is-cool.org eon EURO RSCG MANILA teamasia

Pro-GMA solons say WB report misleading

From page A1

1998 to 37.4 percent in 2005.

This meant that the Philippines was better off than 37.4 percent of all the other countries covered by the study.

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Making headway

Malacañang said it was actually making headway in its anticorruption drive.

The head of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC), Constancia de Guzman, said the report covered the period 1998-2005, which included the administration of Joseph Estrada that began in July 1998 and lasted until Jan. 20, 2001.

She said everybody knows what transpired during the Estrada administration.

Since 2001, the Arroyo administration has done much in its anticorruption drive, which has been supported by international agencies, according to De Guzman.

She noted that the World Bank had extended a grant of $300,000 to the Philippines to address the executive branch's program to strengthen internal audit units as a means to fight corruption in procurement.

"Why would the US extend (to the Philippines) a $21-million grant from the Millennium Challenge Account if it did not see the positive moves being done and the extent of political will that the leadership has given to this area of governance," the PAGC chief said at a briefing in Malacañang.

De Guzman said she was not taking the World Bank report negatively because its findings and recommendations could help the government do more to fight corruption.

Glosses over gains

Saying that the World Bank "apparently glosses over our steady gains," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye cited the removal from office of government officials and surveys showing a decline in the incidence of graft among local government units as evidence that the government was addressing the problem.

"While we acknowledge that much more needs to be done, we believe that the campaign is moving forward in a determined way as part of the President's agenda for political renewal and economic reform," Bunye said in a statement.

Arthur Yap, Presidential Management Staff chief, said the World Bank was probably reminding the government to do more in its anticorruption drive.

In the House of Representatives, Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas and Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Isidoro Real, both vice chairs of the House committee on good government, said the World Bank report was the effect of the culture of "skepticism being propagated by the critics" of Ms Arroyo.

Blame opposition

Cagas and Real said the political opposition was to blame for the negative image of the country in the international community.

"In fairness to the Arroyo administration, it is still battling the Marcos and Estrada legacies where corruption emanated at the very top so government officials were also encouraged to steal," Cagas said.

"Hence, we urge a speedy end to the impartial trial of Erap (former President Estrada) so people will know that even presidents will not go unpunished for their sins," he said.

Cagas said "the black propaganda against the President" contributed to the "unfair World Bank assessment."

"In fairness to the government, let's give credit to its renewed efforts to end corruption, the President's personal stake in this campaign, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission's investigation and recommendations to axe or sanction presidential appointees, and the Ombudsman's drive despite limited resources," he said.

Real said the World Bank should allow the administration to complete its antigraft campaign first before "prejudging its efforts."

"While we have made significant gains in our antigraft drive, there is a lot more to be done before the Philippines becomes graft-free. Government institutions must continue to improve their internal antigraft measures to seal off all possible areas of corruption," Real said.

Administration not transparent

He said the World Bank "failed to see these achievements because these are being clouded by the smear campaign" against the President.

"These are defeating the government's campaign against corruption image-wise. We all want transparency but let us be fair," said Real.

But opposition Rep. Teofisto "TG" Guingona III said that it was the administration that violated transparency in government by "deliberately omitting" vital information in the proposed 2007 national budget.

He said the Department of Budget and Management did not include information "on the sources of financing and details of the country's domestic and foreign debt, which are regularly and traditionally contained in the Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF).

"Without this information, lawmakers do not have sound basis, and thus cannot properly do their constitutionally mandated duty of approving or rejecting a most crucial and potent instrument of governance—the budget," Guingona said.

'Affront on Congress'

"This is a direct affront on Congress as an institution, and a violation of the (Constitution) that guarantees access to information on matters of public concern," he added.

Guingona explained that the 2007 BESF only contained a one-page entry—Salient Features of Program Loan.

"Six other information on sources of financing and outstanding debt were nowhere to be found in the entire BESF," he said.

Guingona said the missing information included the national government financing program, outstanding debt of the national government as of yearend, outstanding domestic debt from regular liabilities of the national government, outstanding domestic debt from liabilities assumed by the national government, outstanding foreign debt from regular liabilities of the national government, and outstanding foreign debt from liabilities assumed by the national government.

NOTICE TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.:

Below is the amended Terms of the Tender Offer for Common Shares of Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. commenced by SM Investments Corporation and its consortium. This publication is made pursuant to the dissemination requirements of the Tender Offer Rules of the Securities Regulation Code.

TERMS OF THE TENDER OFFER FOR COMMON SHARES OF EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.

Party Making The Tender Offer: SM Investments Corporation, in consortium with Shoemart, Inc. (Shoemart), Multi-Realty Development Corporation (MRDC), Syntrix Holdings, Inc., and Sybase Equity Investments Corp (collectively, the "Bidder").

Subject Company: Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. ("EPCIB")

Subject Shares: The Bidder intends to acquire one hundred percent (100%) of the outstanding shares of common stock of EPCIB (the "Shares").

The Bidder has commenced a negotiated sale over 78,807,098 Shares (equivalent to 10.84%) owned by EBC Investments, Inc. which shall be purchased under the same terms as the Tender Offer. Additionally, the Bidder, its affiliates and related interests presently own 37% of the Shares. Consequently, the subject of this Tender Offer is 401,015,110 Shares representing 55.16% of the Shares.

Tender Offer Price: Ninety Two Pesos (P92.00) per share or a total consideration of P36,893,390,120.00 (the "Consideration") subject to the Terms of Payment below.

Tender Offer Period: The Tender Offer Period shall commence on August 31, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. and end on September 28, 2006 at 12:00 noon, unless extended by the Bidder upon approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"). The following is the schedule of the tender offer for the Shares:

August 31, 2006 (9:30 am)	Commencement of the Tender Offer Period
September 28, 2006 (12 noon)	End of Tender Offer Period
September 29, 2006	Acceptance of Shares Tendered and Report on Results
October 2, 2006	Cross Date (Sale of Shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange (the "PSE"))
	Settlement Date (Payment of 10% of the Consideration and issuance of Promissory Note, as defined below)

The Shares being tendered for sale to the Bidder must be received by the Transaction Broker in scripless form not later than 12:00 noon of September 28, 2006. Shares received after the end of the Tender Offer Period shall be rejected. The Transaction Broker will act as custodian for such Shares until such time that the transfer of the Shares to the Bidder is completed or the tendered Shares are withdrawn in accordance with the Terms of the Tender Offer.

Transaction Broker: BDO Securities Corporation, 11th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium, No. 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Application To Tender Shares: Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Shares for sale to the Bidder may do so by securing an Application to Tender Shares form (the "Application Form") from the Transaction Broker and submitting a duly accomplished Application Form together with the following documentary requirements to the Transaction Broker:

a) For certificated Shares, the original stock certificates of EPCIB duly endorsed.

b) For corporate and juridical stockholders, resolutions adopted by the stockholder's board of directors or its governing body authorizing the stockholder to tender and sell Shares pursuant to the Tender Offer, designating signatories for the purpose and indicating the specimen signatures of those signatories. The resolutions shall be embodied in a certification under oath by the corporate secretary of the tendering stockholder in substantially the same form as that attached to the Application Form.

c) For individual stockholders, photocopies of two (2) valid identification cards containing the tendering stockholder's photograph and specimen signature and if the tendering stockholder is acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized special power of attorney in substantially the same form as that attached to the Application Form.

To ensure that the Transaction Broker receives [illegible] tendering stockholders should submit the req[illegible]

a) For certificated Shares, to the Transaction Broker, at least [illegible] trading days [illegible] of the Tender Offer Period, or on or before September 22, 2006, to allow for lodgment [illegible] with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") before the Tender Offer Period, or

b) For shares lodged with their PCD Participant, to their stockbroker [illegible] (the "PCD Participant"), at least 3 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period or [illegible] September 25, 2006, to allow for the electronic transfer of the Shares to the Transaction Broker before the end of the Tender Offer Period.

In addition to the documentary requirements above, tendering stockholders [illegible] shares are in [illegible] PCD should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their Shares to the Transaction Broker.

Acceptance of Shares: All Shares validly tendered by stockholders [illegible] of EPCIB under the Tender Offer shall be accepted for payment by the Bidder. The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Bidder for payment on September 29, 20[illegible] [illegible] Date") [illegible] the Bidder [illegible] corporate [illegible] for the [illegible] the Bidder [illegible] the Shares.

Withdrawal of Securities and Manner of Payment: [illegible]

Conditions Precedent To Closing: [illegible]

Terms of Payment: [illegible]

On Settlement Date, the Transaction Broker shall:

a) make the check for the 10% initial payment payable to either (i) each selling broker for its tendering clients or; (ii) the tendering shareholders that have delivered certificated shares or scripless shares directly to the Transaction Broker;

b) deliver the promissory note/s executed by the Bidder (the "Promissory Note") for the balance of the Consideration in favor of, either (i) each selling broker for its tendering clients or; (ii) the tendering shareholders that have delivered certificated shares or scripless shares directly to the Transaction Broker, and

c) make available a copy of the executed Escrow Agreement in accordance with the terms outlined below.

Checks for the initial payment and Promissory Notes shall be available for pick-up at the Transaction Broker's office listed below beginning October 2, 2006 and up to November 3, 2006. Thereafter, checks and promissory notes shall be mailed or delivered to the stockholders, at their own risk, to their registered address indicated in the Application Form.

In all cases, payment to tendering shareholders will be subject to deduction and withholding for stock transaction tax, broker's selling commission and other customary charges, all of which shall be for the account of the tendering shareholder.

For subsequent payments of the Consideration, the Transaction Broker shall make checks available for pick-up to the payee of the Promissory Note at the Transaction Broker's office beginning on the relevant payment date and until 30 days thereafter. After the expiry of 30 days, the checks shall be mailed or delivered to the payees, at their own risk, to their registered address.

Shareholders that participate in the Tender Offer through their brokers should claim payment/s from such brokers and not from the Bidder or the Transaction Broker.

Escrow of Subject Shares: On Closing Date, the Bidder shall put in escrow with an identified escrow agent (the "Escrow Agent") either of the following (the "Assets in Escrow"):

i) the Subject Shares, or

ii) government securities equivalent in value to the outstanding unpaid balance of the Consideration, or

iii) listed shares of stocks and/or fixed income securities issued by private corporations ("marketable securities") with a market value, based on the average price for the last 30 days, equivalent to 125% of the outstanding unpaid balance of the Consideration, or

iv) any combination of the above

The Bidder may replace the Assets in Escrow at any time provided that the aforesaid collateral valuation requirements are met.

The Escrow Agent shall release the Assets in Escrow to the Bidder upon full payment of the Consideration.

Taxes and other Expenses: The tendering stockholder shall shoulder all taxes, expenses and fees customarily charged to sellers at the PSE.

The Bidder shall shoulder and pay all taxes, expenses and fees customarily charged to buyers at the PSE.

Representation and Warranties of the Tendering Stockholder: By accepting the Tender Offer, each tendering stockholder represents and warrants to the Bidder that:

i) The tendered Shares have been validly issued, fully paid and the non-assessable;

ii) The tendering stockholder is the registered and absolute legal and beneficial owner of, and has good and marketable title, to the tendered Shares; and

iii) On the Cross Date, the Bidder will obtain full and valid title to the tendered Shares, free and clear from any warrants, interests, options, liens, claims and encumbrances and will be able to freely and fully exercise all rights and privileges arising from ownership of such tendered Shares, including but not limited to the right to [illegible] dividends.

Representation and Warranties of the Bidder: The Bidder hereby represents and warrants that the payment of the Consideration shall be made when it falls due.

Default: In the event the Bidder fails to pay any of the Consideration when due, and the delay continues for a period of ninety (90) days, the Bidder shall be declared in default and the tendering shareholder shall have the right to forfeit any part of the Consideration already paid by the Bidder.

In this event of default, the Escrow Agent, upon notice by the any of the tendering shareholder, shall cause the delivery of the Assets in Escrow to the Transaction Broker of the Tender Offer or to any security broker to be designated by the tendering shareholder. The Transaction Broker or such designated securities broker shall sell all or a portion of such Assets in Escrow to satisfy the amount of the Consideration falling due. For this purpose, any and all costs and expenses for this transaction shall be for the account of the Bidder.

Confirmation of Financial Resources: Several banks have certified that resources available to the Bidder are sufficient to satisfy full acceptance of the tender offer, including the confirmation that resources available for immediate disposal are sufficient to satisfy the ten percent (10%) initial payment of the Consideration on Closing Date.

Material Changes: If any material change occurs in the information previously disclosed to the stockholders of EPCIB, the Bidders shall promptly disclose change in a manner reasonably calculated to inform the stockholders of such change.

Tender Offer Report: Further information regarding the tender offer is included in the Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1), copies of which are available at the office of the Transaction Broker. Copies of the Tender Offer Report have also been filed with EPCIB, the PSE and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All queries relating to this Tender Offer for the Shares of Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. may be directed to:

BDO Securities Corporation
11th Floor, The JMT Corporate Condominium
No. 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Attention: Janet D. Amora
Tel. No. 687-3708
Attention: Jasper M. Jimene
Tel. No. 687-3638

BDO Capital & Investment Corporation
11th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium
No. 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Attention: Francisco Eduardo A. Sarmiento
Tel. No. 6346756

Pluto plays lesser role in Planetarium cast

From page A1

the sun's family of planets in accordance with the recent decision of the 26th General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the world's scientific organization tasked with the official naming and classification of celestial bodies in our solar system.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), which oversees the operation of the Planetarium, said it was abiding by last month's IAU resolution downgrading Pluto to a "dwarf planet," which is technically not a full-fledged planet.

Pagasa officials said the Planetarium was purchasing new slides, templates and video clips explaining the IAU's new definition of a classical or true planet that reduced the solar family to only eight—Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

"We will remove Pluto. We will try to find new templates and video clips that reflect IAU Resolution No. 5," Planetarium chief Elmor Escosia told the INQUIRER.

According to the IAU, a celestial body may be considered a planet if it meets three criteria: It orbits the sun; it is nearly round, and it is gravitationally the most dominant body in its orbital region.

New knowledge

Alas for Pluto, its highly egg-shaped orbit actually overlaps with Neptune's path. On the outer edge of the solar system beyond Neptune also lie dozens, if not hundreds, of icy Pluto-like objects called Kuiper Belt Objects.

"We have started to comply with the resolution to give students the new knowledge," Escosia said.

He said the four lecturers at the Planetarium had revised the narrative accompanying the visual projection of the solar system on the dome. From the all-too-familiar introduction of "There are nine major planets in the solar system ...," the narrative at the Planetarium now starts with "Mercury is the first of eight classical planets ..."

"We have to explain to them that whatever they know about Pluto has not changed ... The only thing that changed is its category as a planet," Escosia said.

The Pagasa staff has given updated lectures to some 1,500 students who have visited the Planetarium since the demotion of Pluto, which was discovered in 1930 by American Clyde Tombaugh.

Built in 1975, Pagasa's Planetarium is the first of three such facilities in the Philippines. Charging a minimal fee of P25 per visitor, the facility generates the biggest revenue for the weather bureau every year.

Pagasa space science chief Bernardo Soriano Jr. said the government may have to shell out "a considerable amount" to update presentations at the Planetarium, but publishers of science books as well as producers of videos and other materials on astronomy would have to spend more to reflect the new scientific idea of our solar system.

"The public, especially educators, are advised to revise and update all learning materials in astronomy to reflect the fact that there are now only eight classical planets in the solar system," Pagasa Deputy Director Prisco Nilo said in a statement.

Mother, age 45
Former employee
Full-time homemaker
Part-time caterer
Loves concerts, art exhibits, bazaars

Father, age 52
Former corporate executive
Small business owner
Retired at age 50
Loves golf, traveling, dining out

Both excellent in managing personal finances...
Discovered it at age 25

Managing Personal Finances for the Future

October 7, 2006

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For details and registration, call Sharon Llanes or Marleth Calanog at 840.1742 and 830.2043 or write to cce-abib@aps.ateneo.edu

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Pro-GMA solons say WB report misleading

From page A1

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"In fairness to the government, let's give credit to its renewed efforts to end corruption, the President's personal stake in this campaign, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission's investigation and recommendations to axe or sanction presidential appointees, and the Ombudsman's drive despite limited resources," he said.

Real said the World Bank should allow the administration to complete its antigraft campaign first before "prejudging its efforts."

"While we have made significant gains in our antigraft drive, there is a lot more to be done before the Philippines becomes graft-free. Government institutions must continue to improve their internal antigraft measures to seal off all possible areas of corruption," Real said.

Administration not transparent

He said the World Bank "failed to see these achievements because these are being clouded by the smear campaign" against the President.

"These are defeating the government's campaign against corruption image-wise. We all want transparency but let us be fair," said Real.

But opposition Rep. Teofisto "TG" Guingona III said that it was the administration that violated transparency in government by "deliberately omitting" vital information in the proposed 2007 national budget.

He said the Department of Budget and Management did not include information "on the sources of financing and details of the country's domestic and foreign debt, which are regularly and traditionally contained in the Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF).

"Without this information, lawmakers do not have sound basis, and thus cannot properly do their constitutionally mandated duty of approving or rejecting a most crucial and potent instrument of governance—the budget," Guingona said.

'Affront on Congress'

"This is a direct affront on Congress as an institution, and a violation of the (Constitution) that guarantees access to information on matters of public concern," he added.

Guingona explained that the 2007 BESF only contained a one-page entry—Salient Features of Program Loan.

"Six other information on sources of financing and outstanding debt were nowhere to be found in the entire BESF," he said.

Guingona said the missing information included the national government financing program, outstanding debt of the national government as of yearend, outstanding domestic debt from regular liabilities of the national government, outstanding domestic debt from liabilities assumed by the national government, outstanding foreign debt from regular liabilities of the national government, and outstanding foreign debt from liabilities assumed by the national government.

NOTICE TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.:

Below is the amended Terms of the Tender Offer for Common Shares of Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. commenced by SM Investments Corporation and its consortium. This publication is made pursuant to the dissemination requirements of the Tender Offer Rules of the Securities Regulation Code.

TERMS OF THE TENDER OFFER FOR COMMON SHARES OF EQUITABLE PCI BANK, INC.

Party Making The Tender Offer: SM Investments Corporation, in consortium with Shoemart, Inc. (Shoemart), Multi-Realty Development Corporation (MRDC), Synrite Holdings, Inc., and Sylvan Equity Investments Corp (collectively, the "Bidder").

Subject Company: Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. ("EPCIB")

Subject Shares: The Bidder intends to acquire one hundred percent (100%) of the outstanding shares of common stock of EPCIB (the "Shares").

The Bidder has commenced a negotiated sale over 78,807,008 Shares (equivalent to 10.00% owned by EBC Investments, Inc. which shall be purchased under the same terms as the Tender Offer. Additionally, the Bidder, its affiliates and related interests presently own 3.1% of the Shares. Consequently, the subject of this Tender Offer is 401,015,110 Shares representing 55.16% of the Shares.

Tender Offer Price: Ninety Two Pesos (P92.00) per share or a total consideration of P36,893,390,120.00 (the "Consideration") subject to the Terms of Payment below.

Tender Offer Period: The Tender Offer Period shall commence on August 31, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. and end on September 28, 2006 at 12:00 noon, unless extended by the Bidder upon approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"). The following is the schedule of the tender offer for the Shares:

August 31, 2006 (9:30 am)	Commencement of the Tender Offer Period
September 28, 2006 (12 noon)	End of Tender Offer Period
September 29, 2006	Acceptance of Shares Tendered and Report on Results
October 2, 2006	Cross Date (Sale of Shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange (the "PSE"))
	Settlement Date (Payment of 10% of the Consideration and issuance of Promissory Note, as defined below)

The Shares being tendered for sale to the Bidder must be received by the Transaction Broker in scripless form not later than 12:00 noon of September 28, 2006. Shares received after the end of the Tender Offer Period shall be rejected. The Transaction Broker will act as custodian for such Shares until such time that the transfer of the Shares to the Bidder is completed or the tendered Shares are withdrawn in accordance with the Terms of the Tender Offer.

Transaction Broker: BDO Securities Corporation, 11th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium, No. 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Application To Tender Shares: Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Shares for sale to the Bidder may do so by securing an Application to Tender Shares form (the "Application Form") from the Transaction Broker and submitting a duly accomplished Application Form together with the following documentary requirements to the Transaction Broker:

a) For certificated Shares, the original stock certificates of EPCIB duly endorsed;

b) For corporate and juridical stockholders, resolutions adopted by the stockholder's board of directors or its governing body authorizing the stockholder to tender and sell Shares pursuant to the Tender Offer, designating signatories for the purpose and indicating the specimen signatures of those signatories. The resolutions shall be embodied in a certification under oath by the corporate secretary of the tendering stockholder, in substantially the same form as that attached to the Application Form;

c) For individual stockholders, photocopies of two (2) valid identification cards containing the tendering stockholder's photograph and specimen signature and if the tendering stockholder is acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized special power of attorney, in substantially the same form as that attached to the Application Form.

To ensure that the Transaction Broker receives the Shares in scripless form within the Tender Offer Period, the tendering stockholders should submit the required documents:

(i) For certificated Shares, to the Transaction Broker, at least 5 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period, or on or before September 22, 2006, to allow for lodgment of the shares with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") before the end of the Tender Offer Period; or

(ii) For shares lodged with their PCD Participant, to their stockbroker or custodian (the "PCD Participant"), at least 3 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period or, on or before September 25, 2006, to allow for the electronic transfer of the Shares to the Transaction Broker before the end of the Tender Offer Period.

In addition to the documentary requirements above, tendering stockholders whose Shares are lodged with the PCD should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their Shares to the Transaction Broker.

Acceptance of Shares: All Shares validly tendered by stockholders of record of EPCIB under the Tender Offer shall be accepted for payment by the Bidder. The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Bidder for payment on September 28, 2006 (the "Closing Date") subject to the condition that the Bidder shall have obtained all corporate, commercial and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Bidder of the Shares.

Withdrawal of Securities and Manner of Payment: The Shares tendered may be withdrawn by the stockholder of record at any time during the tender offer period by submitting a written request for the tendered Shares to the Tender Offer Agent and surrendering the original Securities In Escrow issued by the Tender Offer Agent/Transaction Broker. The last day to withdraw tendered Shares shall be on Thursday, September 28, 2006 at 12 noon.

Shares shall be returned in the same form it was received, to the PCD Participant of previously lodged with the PDC Participant) or to the tendering stockholder (if previously certificated), within ten (10) trading days from the end of the Tender Offer Period. The cost of returning the Shares shall be borne by the stockholder making the withdrawal.

Conditions Precedent To Closing: All necessary corporate and regulatory approvals, including but not limited to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas approval shall be obtained by the Bidder prior to Closing Date.

Terms of Payment: The Consideration shall be payable as follows: ten percent (10%) on Settlement Date or on October 2, 2006; ten percent (10%) on June 2, 2007; ten percent (10%) on February 2, 2008; the remaining balance to be paid on October 2, 2008. Should any of the payment dates fall on a holiday or a non-trading day, the payment of the relevant Consideration shall be made on the next business day.

On Settlement Date, the Transaction Broker shall:

a) make the check for the 10% initial payment payable to either (i) each selling broker for its tendering clients or; (ii) the tendering shareholders that have delivered certificated shares or scripless shares directly to the Transaction Broker;

b) deliver the promissory notes executed by the Bidder (the "Promissory Note") for the balance of the Consideration in favor of, either (i) each selling broker for its tendering clients or; (ii) the tendering shareholders that have delivered certificated shares or scripless shares directly to the Transaction Broker, and

c) make available a copy of the executed Escrow Agreement in accordance with the terms outlined below.

Checks for the initial payment and Promissory Notes shall be available for pick-up at the Transaction Broker's office listed below beginning October 2, 2006 and up to November 3, 2006. Thereafter, checks and promissory notes shall be mailed or delivered to the stockholders, at their own risk, to their registered address indicated in the Application Form.

In all cases, payment to tendering shareholders will be subject to deduction and withholding for stock transaction tax, broker's selling commission and other customary charges, all of which shall be for the account of the tendering shareholder.

For subsequent payments of the Consideration, the Transaction Broker shall make checks available for pick-up to the payee of the Promissory Note at the Transaction Broker's office beginning on the relevant payment date and until 30 days thereafter. After the expiry of 30 days, the checks shall be mailed or delivered to the payees, at their own risk, to their registered address.

Shareholders that participate in the Tender Offer through their brokers should claim payments from such brokers and not from the Bidder or the Transaction Broker.

Escrow of Subject Shares: On Closing Date, the Bidder shall put in escrow with an identified escrow agent (the "Escrow Agent") either of the following (the "Assets in Escrow"):

i) the Subject Shares, or

ii) government securities equivalent in value to the outstanding unpaid balance of the Consideration, or

iii) listed shares of stocks and/or fixed income securities issued by private corporations ("marketable securities") with a market value, based on the average price for the last 30 days, equivalent to 125% of the outstanding unpaid balance of the Consideration, or

iv) any combination of the above.

The Bidder may replace the Assets in Escrow at any time provided that the aforesaid collateral valuation requirements are met.

The Escrow Agent shall release the Assets in Escrow to the Bidder upon full payment of the Consideration.

Taxes and other Expenses: The tendering stockholder shall shoulder all taxes, expenses and fees customarily charged to sellers at the PSE.

The Bidder shall shoulder and pay all taxes, expenses and fees customarily charged to buyers at the PSE.

Representation and Warranties of the Tendering Stockholder: By accepting the Tender Offer, each tendering stockholder represents and warrants to the Bidder that:

(i) The tendered Shares have been validly issued, fully paid and are non-assessable;

(ii) The tendering stockholder is the registered and absolute legal and beneficial owner of, and has good and marketable title, to the tendered Shares; and

(iii) On the Cross Date, the Bidder will obtain full and valid title to the tendered Shares, free and clear from any warrants, interests, options, liens, claims and encumbrances and will be able to freely and fully exercise all rights and privileges arising from ownership of such tendered Shares, including but not limited to the right to vote and receive dividends.

Representation and Warranties of the Bidder: The Bidder hereby represents and warrants that the payment of the Consideration shall be made when it falls due.

Default: In the event the Bidder fails to pay any of the Consideration when due, and the delay continues for a period of ninety (90) days, the Bidder shall be declared in default and the tendering shareholder shall have the right to forfeit any part of the Consideration already paid by the Bidder.

In the event of default, the Escrow Agent, upon notice by the any of the tendering shareholder, shall cause the delivery of the Assets in Escrow to the Transaction Broker of the Tender Offer or to any security broker to be designated by the tendering shareholder. The Transaction Broker or such designated securities broker shall sell all or a portion of such Assets in Escrow to satisfy the amount of the Consideration falling due. For this purpose, any and all costs and expenses for this transaction shall be for the account of the Bidder.

Confirmation of Financial Resources: Several banks have certified that resources available to the Bidder are sufficient to satisfy full acceptance of the tender offer, including the confirmation that resources available for immediate disposal are sufficient to satisfy the ten percent (10%) initial payment of the Consideration on Closing Date.

Material Changes: If any material change occurs in the information previously disclosed to the stockholders of EPCIB, the Bidders shall promptly disclose change in a manner reasonably calculated to inform the stockholders of such change.

Tender Offer Report: Further information regarding the tender offer is included in the Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1), copies of which are available at the office of the Transaction Broker. Copies of the Tender Offer Report have also been filed with EPCIB, the PSE and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All questions relating to this Tender Offer for the Shares of Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. may be directed to:

BDO Securities Corporation
11th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium
No. 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Attention: Janet D. Amora
Tel. No. 687-3708
Attention: Jasper M. Jimenez
Tel. No. 687-3628

BDO Capital & Investment Corporation
11th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium
No. 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Attention: Francisco Eduardo A. Sarmiento
Tel. No. 633-6750

JJD

Pluto plays lesser role in Planetarium cast

From page A1

the sun's family of planets in accordance with the recent decision of the 26th General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the world's scientific organization tasked with the official naming and classification of celestial bodies in our solar system.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), which oversees the operation of the Planetarium, said it was abiding by last month's IAU resolution downgrading Pluto to a "dwarf planet," which is technically not a full-fledged planet.

Pagasa officials said the Planetarium was purchasing new slides, templates and video clips explaining the IAU's new definition of a classical or true planet that reduced the solar family to only eight—Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

"We will remove Pluto. We will try to find new templates and video clips that reflect IAU Resolution No. 5," Planetarium chief Elmor Escosia told the INQUIRER.

According to the IAU, a celestial body may be considered a planet if it meets three criteria: It orbits the sun; it is nearly round, and it is gravitationally the most dominant body in its orbital region.

New knowledge

Alas for Pluto, its highly egg-shaped orbit actually overlaps with Neptune's path. On the outer edge of the solar system beyond Neptune also lie dozens, if not hundreds, of icy Pluto-like objects called Kuiper Belt Objects.

"We have started to comply with the resolution to give students the new knowledge," Escosia said.

He said the four lecturers at the Planetarium had revised the narrative accompanying the visual projection of the solar system on the dome. From the all-too-familiar introduction of "There are nine major planets in the solar system ...," the narrative at the Planetarium now starts with "Mercury is the first of eight classical planets ..."

"We have to explain to them that whatever they know about Pluto has not changed ... The only thing that changed is its category as a planet," Escosia said.

The Pagasa staff has given updated lectures to some 1,500 students who have visited the Planetarium since the demotion of Pluto, which was discovered in 1930 by American Clyde Tombaugh.

Built in 1975, Pagasa's Planetarium is the first of three such facilities in the Philippines. Charging a minimal fee of P25 per visitor, the facility generates the biggest revenue for the weather bureau every year.

Pagasa space science chief Bernardo Soriano Jr. said the government may have to shell out "a considerable amount" to update presentations at the Planetarium, but publishers of science books as well as producers of videos and other materials on astronomy would have to spend more to reflect the new scientific idea of our solar system.

"The public, especially educators, are advised to revise and update all learning materials in astronomy to reflect the fact that there are now only eight classical planets in the solar system," Pagasa Deputy Director Prisco Nilo said in a statement.

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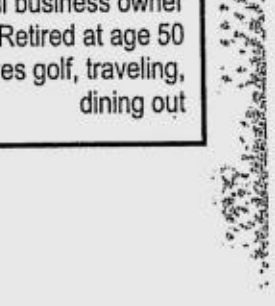

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Reds killed over 1,200, Esperon testifies

From page A1

looking into the murders of 118 members of the left-wing party-list group Bayan Muna since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001.

Human rights groups estimate that in all, more than 700 people have been murdered by the security services since 2001, including lawyers, human rights workers, trade unionists and journalists. The INQUIRER lists 250 assassinations.

Some of the killings have been blamed on units under Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, who commanded the 7th Infantry Division before he retired last week.

Informal probe

Esperon testified that the AFP conducted an informal probe of the allegations against Palparan, who has yet to testify at the inquiry.

"We found nothing that could be attributed to him," he said.

To subject Palparan to an investigation would have distracted him from his duties battling the insurgents in Central Luzon, Esperon said. "That would be counterproductive to us."

He said there was also the "matter of timing," noting that Malacañang had already created the Philippine National Police Task Force Usig, the predecessor of the Melo Commission.

Coming up with a separate investigation "would be muddling" the probe conducted by Usig. "It would also not look good for us to be investigating ourselves," Esperon said.

On his second appearance before the Melo Commission, Esperon continued to defend Palparan, called the "butcher" by leftists. Palparan was scheduled to testify at the Melo Commission today.

Accusations only in media

Esperon's security aides tried to stop Bayan Muna public information staffer Gian Paolo Oliveros and three others from observing the proceedings. But Melo said the hearings were open to the public.

Esperon maintained that all the accusations against Palparan were only made in the media.

"It's easy to make accusations left and right," he said, stressing that so far, none of those who complained in the media had formally filed a complaint against Palparan.

Commission counsel Rogelio Vinluan confronted Esperon with the TF Usig report that of the 110 killings already investigated, six victims were killed by soldiers, 10 deaths were "linked" to the AFP, and 78 cases were still being investigated.

Esperon said the AFP would look into the report.

Vinluan also took note of a column in the INQUIRER by Amando Doronila about Palparan's "reign of terror" in Central Luzon and the "inexplicable rise in the number of killings" wherever the general was assigned.

'Knowing the Enemy'

"It was Mr. Doronila's opinion. I don't know if there was enough data presented," Esperon said. He said the casualties could have been the result of the "many encounters" reported in the areas where Palparan was assigned.

Esperon also downplayed the military's PowerPoint presentation, "Knowing the Enemy," which listed 32 progressive organizations, among them Bayan Muna, Sanlakas, National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines as "communist fronts." Many of the victims of the killings were members of Bayan Muna.

"Knowing the Enemy is a common lecture, a common module to get to know the enemy. It is used in classrooms and offered in different schools but not exactly with the same content," Esperon explained.

When Vinluan suggested that "correcting" the impression that Bayan Muna and other leftist groups were "communist fronts" could stop the killings, Esperon said Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo should also "renounce his membership" in the CPP-NPA-NDF.

Ocampo, who was detained during martial law, served as spokesperson of the NDF during peace talks with the newly installed Aquino administration in 1986.

ESPERON (left) meets ex-Justice Jose Melo, commission head, before the start of yesterday's hearing. JOAN BONDOC

Impartial probers in body sought

From page A1

AI secretary general Irene Khan met with Ms Arroyo on the latter's invitation during her London stop and submitted the memo "as a basis for discussion."

"Amnesty International urges the government ... to seriously consider an expansion of the commission's membership to include other independent and impartial persons from human rights or other groups with experience of documenting reports of political killings," said the memo, a copy of which was released to the INQUIRER.

Leftist groups have criticized the inclusion of two administration officials in the Melo Commission, saying they could compromise its independence.

"In the Philippines, a wide range of groups including human rights, legal, political and Church and community-based organizations have conducted fact-finding missions and compiled documentation into patterns of political killings over recent years," the AI memo read.

"Such groups should be actively encouraged to submit their reports and to participate in the work of the commission," it added.

The AI also suggested that the commission employ its own investigators rather than rely on state agencies such as the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

Probers needed

The group said the commission's credibility would be "significantly enhanced to the extent that the commission can rely, where necessary, on its own investigators."

In an e-mail to the INQUIRER in August, Tim Parritt, AI director for Southeast Asia, said that as outlined in the UN Principles for the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, members of such bodies as the Melo Commission should be chosen for their recognized impartiality, competence and independence as individuals.

"In particular, they should be independent of any institution, agency or person which may be subject of the inquiry. Such a body/procedure should have the authority to obtain all information necessary to the inquiry," Parritt said.

Pursue information

The AI memo also informed Ms Arroyo that following the release in August of the group's report detailing 51 killings in the country from January to June, it monitored 15 more killings from July to the beginning of September.

The AI suggested that the commission should pursue all available sources of information, including statements from surviving victims, witnesses and alleged perpetrators; material evidence from sources such as government records, medical records or reports; and police investigation files, court files, media reports and information from NGOs.

"The experience of human rights organizations over the years has resulted in material relevant to the cases which the commission should avail," it said.

The human rights group Karapatan claims to have recorded more than 700 alleged political slayings since Ms Arroyo became President in 2001. Karapatan, however, has been dismissed by the Armed Forces as a communist front.

"Where the Melo Commission considers the police or other investigative agency to have made an inconclusive or otherwise unsatisfactory investigation, it should undertake a prompt, thorough, effective and impartial investigation and not be hampered or otherwise inhibited by following the conclusions of a previous investigation," the AI said.

"Investigations should not simply constitute an examination of an existing police investigation's file," it added.

Open proceedings

The AI said the commission should be transparent and its proceedings should be made open to the public and the media.

Nonetheless, witness protection, especially those of the victims, should be paramount, it said.

"The Melo Commission should be granted all necessary human and material resources to devise and implement witness protection measures with the cooperation, if necessary and appropriate, of the DOJ (Department of Justice)," it said.

The group said the Melo Commission should be able to count on the services of experts in the relevant fields, including psychology, pathology, forensic anthropology and ballistics.

Also yesterday, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said he and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo will travel to Europe next month to firm up Ms Arroyo's invitation for the international community to send representatives to monitor the situation in the country.

Gonzales, who accompanied the President on her recent European trip, said Finland and Spain had agreed to send monitors.

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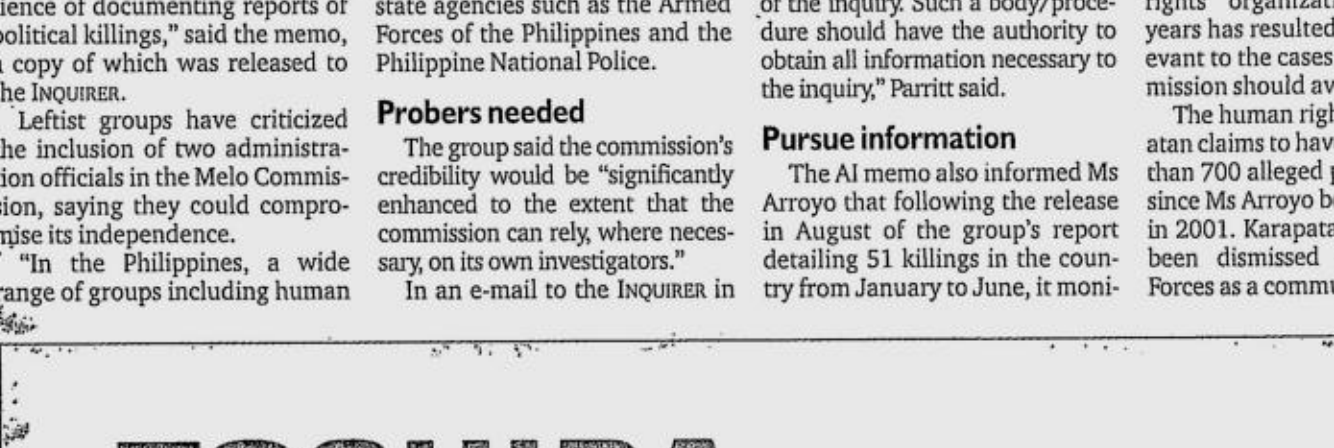

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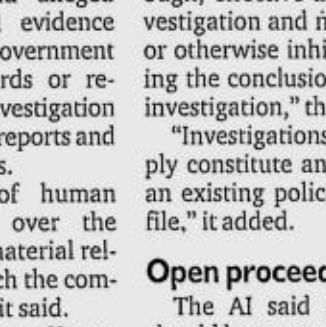

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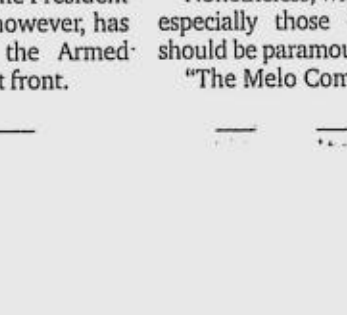

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DOJ secretary retains panel of prosecutors

From page A1

"We are now in the defense stage. It has no bearing at all whether she's present (at the hearings) or not ... We will fight for the case of Nicole even though she doesn't want to fight for herself," Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos told reporters.

The lead government counsel explained that the "People of the Philippines" are the real plaintiffs in the criminal case and that the 22-year-old Nicole was actually just "a witness" against the four accused US Marines.

Since the prosecution had already rested its case in mid-August, Nicole's presence in the hearing may only be needed if the prosecution decides to do a "rebuttal," De los Santos added.

Still, she said, "we have to ask Nicole and it's up to her if she wants [to take the stand again]."

De los Santos, head of the five-member panel assigned by the Department of Justice to prosecute the case, also announced that the DOJ had retained her team—an apparent rejection of Nicole's request last week to change all her government lawyers, except for Hazel Valdez.

Walkout

"The panel is directed to continue in the prosecution of this case. We are happy that the justice secretary has full confidence in the competence of the team," she said in an interview after yesterday's hearing at Makati City Regional Trial Court Branch 139..

On Thursday last week, Nicole

GONZALEZ

and her mother walked out of the courtroom minutes before the hearing could start and aired their dissatisfaction with the way public prosecutor Nolibien Quiambao had cross-examined Nicole's alleged rapist, Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith.

Mother and daughter complained of the "incompetence" and lack of preparation on the part of the DOJ lawyers, saying the public prosecutors were bungling their otherwise strong case.

In a move that further drove a wedge between Nicole and the DOJ team, her mother on Friday alleged in media interviews that De los Santos had "proposed" a case settlement as early as July.

Ingrates

The mother further claimed that De los Santos had also warned about the rape case being "traded off" with the likewise controversial Bolante case in the US if Nicole passed up this option.

In a hastily called press conference just before noon yesterday, a fuming De los Santos lashed out at Nicole and her mother for accusing the prosecutors of being incompetent.

She branded the two as "ingrates" for destroying her credibility, as well as those of her fellow prosecutors.

De los Santos reminded Nicole and her mother that she and the panel had sacrificed time from their families and from their other cases so Nicole would get justice.

"We deny that we are incompetent. During the first few months of the trial, they were crying to high heavens that we were that good and all of a sudden ... we are incompetent," De los Santos said.

"We will give our heart and soul to give justice to Nicole. It does not matter if she and her mother walk out every day. The panel will continue to fight for the case," she added.

De los Santos dismissed claims that she warned the victim and her mother that the rape case could be "traded off" with the Bolante case in the United States if Nicole refused to settle.

'We don't trust them'

She also denied the accusation that she was trying to convince Nicole to enter into a financial settlement with Smith.

De los Santos said it was Nicole's mother who had asked for advice on the possibility of entering into a deal with the defense and how it could affect the case.

Told that De los Santos had called her and her daughter "ingrates" hours earlier in a press conference at the DOJ, Nicole's mother countered in Filipino: "We don't owe her anything because they get their salaries from taxpayers like us."

Reached by phone in Zamboanga City, Nicole's mother said she and her daughter did not attend yesterday's hearing because "we're not contented with the proceedings and we don't trust" the public prosecutors.

"The issue here is their incompetence. I may not have a background in law but I'm not that dumb not to see that," she said.

Nicole's mother manages a canteen in Zamboanga City and is also a civilian supervisor in the Philippine Navy.

"*Bahala na sila; sila daw ang* boss (It's all up to them; they say they're the boss, anyway)," she added, when asked if she and her daughter will attend the trial again.

The public spat between Nicole and the DOJ panel was not necessarily working in the interest of Smith et al., according to a defense lawyer.

"The evidence presented will be the same no matter who (Nicole's) lawyers are. Ultimately, it will be the court which will appreciate it," said Smith's counsel, Ricardo Diaz.

Stay

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday turned down the request of Nicole's family to replace the public prosecutors.

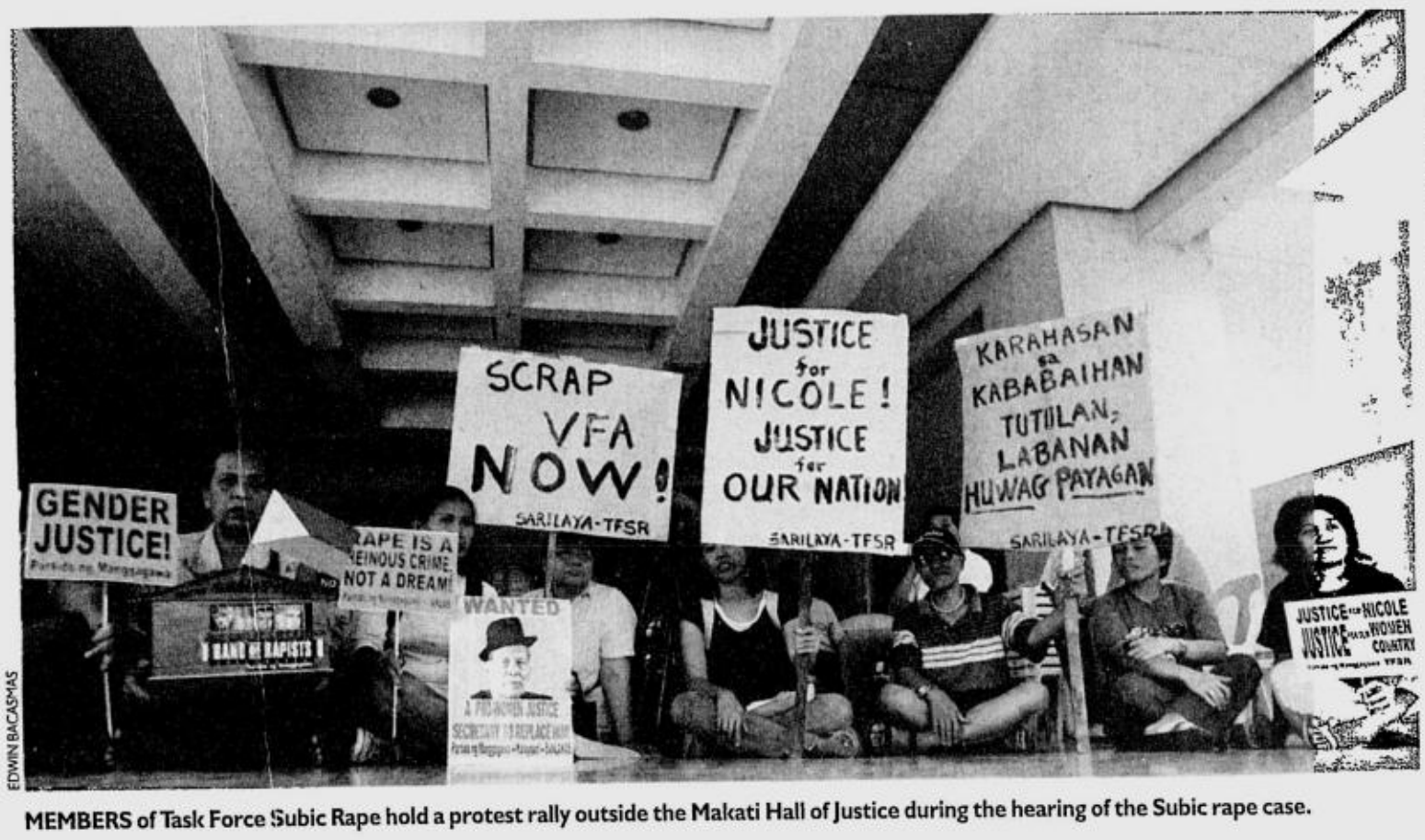
In a two-page memorandum, Gonzalez directed the five-man panel "to remain as the panel of prosecutors" and to "continue to represent the People of the Philippines in the conduct" of the case.

"Considering that the prosecution had already presented its evidence and rested its case and it is now the turn of the defense to present its evidence, the private complainant through her private prosecutor may only intervene in the said proceedings insofar as the civil aspect is concerned. As such, your panel shall remain in control of the entire criminal proceedings," the memo said.

"This is a matter of principle. I don't think my prosecutors made mistakes," Gonzalez told reporters, adding that court records would show that the series of questions they posed to Smith were "very valid."

Asked whether the distrust that Nicole and her mother harbored toward their prosecutors could affect the case, Gonzalez said: "It would affect the emotions of the parties, but not on how they appreciate the evidence."

Asked if the prosecutors would be replaced if the relationship between the parties continued to deteriorate, he said: "We will see how the prosecutors will perform ... If I feel it would prejudice the rights of the parties, then I would change [them]."



EDWIN BACASMAS

MEMBERS of Task Force Subic Rape hold a protest rally outside the Makati Hall of Justice during the hearing of the Subic rape case.

Doc says 'Nicole' lacked injuries...

From page A1

I do not find any injury significant to suggest that there was rape or anything forced on the person ... based on the absence of injuries in the inner thighs and inner knees," Sanchez told the court.

Sanchez, who trained in forensics and toxicology, was supposed to take the stand on Friday after qualifying as an expert witness the previous day.

The public prosecutors, however, had sought a postponement because of their rift with Nicole and her mother, who had accused the state panel of being incompetent and of colluding with the defense to give up the case.

No injuries there

When Sanchez finally took the stand yesterday, she told the court that rape victims usually sustained contusions on their inner thighs and knees because of the forced spreading of their legs—injuries not found on Nicole.

Under the direct examination of Ricardo Diaz, Smith's counsel, the doctor said she based her opinion on her own experience and widely used literature on the matter, copies of which she brought to court.

Diaz questioned Sanchez on whether such injuries could have been inflicted during a sexual assault on someone who was very drunk, as Nicole supposedly was, on the night of the alleged rape.

"Also from experience, a person who is not cooperative or is dead drunk would be in a condition like that of a person under anesthesia. She would certainly have heavy legs and one would definitely use force to separate the legs," Sanchez said.

Diaz asked Sanchez to give her assessment by referring to the results of Nicole's medical examination at the James Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City, 33 hours after the alleged rape.

Rebuttal

The examining doctor, Dr. Rolando Ortiz II, found that Nicole sustained contusions on her right wrist, her upper left arm, her legs and her genital area.

When he testified for the prosecution, Ortiz told the court that the injuries were consistent with rape, an analysis seconded by Dr. Raquel Fortun, an expert witness who also took the stand for the prosecution.

Sanchez, however, gave testimony rebutting the two doctors. She told the court that contusions in the genital area could occur both in consensual and forced intercourse.

When Diaz asked whether contusions could occur during consensual intercourse in a confined space such as a Starex van, Sanchez answered: "That will be very difficult ... It may cause contusions and there is literature and documented cases which [say contusions] can appear both in consensual and nonconsensual sex."

She added: "In consensual sex, contusions are not only possible, it's probable."

Diaz also sought the doctor's expertise in Ortiz's findings of deep and healed lacerated injuries in the genitalia, as a medico-legal examination had found on Nicole. Sanchez said the lacerations could have occurred because of "previous intercourse, maybe of one, two, three or more."

"Persons?" Diaz asked.

Amid laughter from the gallery, Sanchez told Diaz that she was simply referring to the number of previous sexual encounters of a person found to have such injuries. She, however, said such injuries could have been sustained in instances other than a sexual act, such as an accident.

Diaz attempted to elicit testimony from Sanchez about a possible link between infections and lacerations in the outer genitalia—another way to debunk the allegation that the injuries were caused by forced sex.

State Prosecutor Hazel Valdez rose to object and told the court that the medico-legal examination never mentioned any infection.

Dangerous levels

"The witness was called upon to render opinion on facts already established ... We could not allow the witness to speculate and then render an opinion on that speculation. That is utterly improper," Valdez said.

Diaz later withdrew from this line of questioning.

He decided to probe Sanchez's knowledge of toxicology and asked about the possible condition of a person with a blood alcohol level between 300 mg/dL (milligrams per deciliter) and 400 mg/dL.

"At that stage, the person should already be stuporous," Sanchez said.

A blood alcohol level between 400 mg/dL and 500 mg/dL is "a very dangerous situation to be in. That should be considered an emergency because you can lapse into a coma or even die," she added.

Too drunk for sex

Another expert witness for the prosecution, Dr. Kenneth Go, a medical toxicologist from the Philippine General Hospital, approximated that Nicole had a blood alcohol level of 445.2 mg/dL.

He based his computation on witnesses' accounts of the drinks Nicole had at the Neptune Club, the Subic nightspot where she and Smith met shortly before the alleged rape.

Go also made the approximation based on testimony on Nicole's demeanor after several drinks at the bar.

The doctor's testimony supported the prosecution's allegation that Nicole was too drunk to have consented to sex at the time of the incident.

When Diaz finished his direct examination, the prosecution asked the court for more time to prepare for their cross-examination.

Sanchez was scheduled to return on Monday to undergo the prosecution's questioning.

Carpentier was scheduled to take the stand today, followed by Silkwood on Thursday and Duplantis on Friday, their lawyers said.

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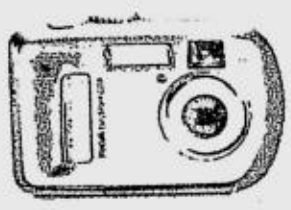

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Investing for OFWs

EDITORIAL

LAST WEEK THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE of the Philippines put a damper on the Overseas Filipino Workers program, saying that the Catholic Church does not encourage or promote labor migration. The CBCP said labor migration has resulted in "brain drain" and other social problems. It urged the government to address the real causes of the exodus, which are poverty and unemployment, instead of encouraging labor migration.

Also last week, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported that dollars sent home by OFWs through banks rose 15.8 percent from a year earlier to $7 billion in the first seven months of 2006. At the rate remittances are increasing, it is not farfetched to predict that they would total $11 billion or even $12 billion this year.

The OFW program was conceived by the Marcos administration in 1975 as a stop-gap measure to alleviate unemployment and poverty as well as to help the country raise foreign exchange for its import requirements. It has since become practically a permanent part of the government's labor and employment program. In 1975, the Philippines deployed about 35,000 workers. Today, there are an estimated 8 million OFWs in 193 countries in practically all the continents.

Dollar remittances of OFWs have generally been rising the past nine years: $5.7 billion in 1997; $7.3 billion, 1998; $6.7 billion, 1999; $6 billion, 2000; $6 billion, 2001; $6.8 billion, 2002; $7.5 billion, 2003; $8.5 billion, 2004; and $10.6 billion, 2005. The Philippines, according to a World Bank report, "Global Development Finance 2003," is the third largest recipient of remittances from overseas workers. Based on 2001 remittance figures, India topped the list with $10 billion; Mexico was second with $9.9 billion; and the Philippines, third with $6.4 billion.

The OFWs' remittances have increased the people's purchasing power and consumption. Some of the money has been spent on luxury goods such as designer clothes and shoes for the children of OFWs, the latest model cell phones and appliances. And some of it has been spent by the OFWs' relatives in socially unproductive and pernicious activities such as gambling, drinking and the taking of prohibited drugs.

Up to now there has been no integrated, systematic use of the remittances to help improve the economy. Early in 2005 the Office of External Affairs disclosed a plan to raise more than $100 million by selling Makabayan Investment Certificates to OFWs in the United States, Canada and Europe. The proceeds would be used to finance micro enterprises such as piggeries or *sari-sari* stores. After that announcement, nothing has been heard about the project.

Also last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas encouraged banks to tap OFWs as a market for unit investment trust funds, a new product it was promoting to replace common trust funds. The BSP said it wanted banks to go after OFWs to help them put their remittances to good use.

Francisco J. Colayco, an investment consultant, suggests that OFWs invest in small farms so that when they retire they can live off the earnings of the farms. But which government agency will help them set up and run the farms?

Another enterprise that OFWs can engage in is franchising. They certainly have the financial capability, but they do not have the entrepreneurial ability to convert their plans into stable and profitable businesses that will last them for the rest of their lives. In 2002 the state-run SB Corp. came up with the SME-Financing for Organizationally Competent and Excellent Franchise Businesses program to induce OFWs to go into franchising established businesses. Franchising is a good idea, but there has to be sustained support for OFWs who still have to develop business and management skills.

We agree with the CBCP that the government's policy of promoting labor migration should not be a permanent policy, and that some other solutions have to be found to the perennial problems of poverty and unemployment. But in the meantime, we should make the best of the current situation, and make the best use of overseas workers' remittances so that they can help improve the national economy. About $65 billion (or P3.2 trillion), which was what OFWs remitted through the banks to the country the past nine years, is certainly no piddling sum. Properly mobilized and used, and channeled to projects that would create more wealth, the substantial remittances of OFWs can help accelerate the country's economic development.

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Service rather than power

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

DUMAGUETE CITY—IN THIS PLACID UNIversity town by the sea, you strain to recall the night, 34 years ago this week, when Ferdinand Marcos appeared on grainy black-and-white TV screens to justify Proclamation 1081 that clamped on martial law.

Freedoms must be shackled to save the nation, the man said. He jailed opposition leaders and padlocked the press "to defend democracy." And he handcuffed the country, for 14 years, to a bleak dictatorship.

Journalists in Cagayan de Oro and Dumaguete mark Press Freedom Week on the date of this tragic crossroads. Cebu's rites include seminars on Cyberspace media's impact on governance, the Asean summit coverage, a documentary on newsmen's murders and a book on local journalism's history.

"Come, let us remember so our grandchildren won't go through the same wringer," said Negros Chronicle editor Ely Dejaresco. Below is a note I presented before Dumaguete colleagues:

Was it George Santayana who wrote that "remembering the past gives power to the present"? Recalling past tragedy can empower us today to grapple with tomorrow.

Proclamation 1081 made us realize how brittle constitutional guarantees can sometimes be. In gagged newsrooms, Justice Learned Hand's words re-reechoed: "The spirit of liberty lies in the hearts of men. When it dies there, no constitution, no law, no decree, can save it."

Through window slats of detention camps, we glimpsed how the loudest defenders of pre-1081 press freedom morphed into the most repressive of censors. They resumed the libertarian's mantle, when the dictator fled. They did that with ease, given people's short memories.

Women journalists proved tougher than many thought. "To a man," a group stood up to martial law press overlords. Among these were Magsaysay Awardees Eugenia Duran Apostol and Shiela Coronel, Lourdes Fernandez, June Keithley of Edsa I's "Radyo Bandido," Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, Ma. Ceres Doyo and Lorna Kalaw Tirol, now of INQUIRER, Melinda de Jesus, Arlene Babst.

Their grit dulled the sting of David Rosenberg's comment in "Liberty Versus Loyalty": "Whenever freedom of the press has been permitted, Filipinos defended it with passion. Whenever it has been prohibited, they complied with government regulations with obsequiousness."

Unshackled by People Power I, the press stripped away the cover-up on massive corruption, *desparecidos* and torture victims. We sensed the extortionate penalty exacted from a nation, when propagandists masqueraded as journalists.

In ratifying the 1987 Constitution, the Filipino people reentrusted press freedom to us. But their gift has strings attached. It is not a constitutional blank check for those who flash a press card. Journalists may not crassly dispense unbridled commentary based on superficial reporting.

We are, first and foremost, trustees of this gift. As stewards, we're tasked to use this freedom for the service of what is just. Media must do this in a country where an avaricious oligarchy rules while "the poor are sold for a pair of sandals." The poor have the single most urgent claim on this nation's resources.

Press Freedom Week will rise beyond ritual if today's temporary stewards of Edsa's gift work by "values that endure even after the sun goes out": fairness, accuracy, balance, respect for privacy, avoidance of conflict of interest—and old-fashioned integrity.

"These values anchor the social contract between the credible journalist and the public he or she serves," says the 2006 Press Freedom Week pooled editorial of Cebu newspapers. "Journalism should consider itself a service, rather than a power."

Some journalists do this task brilliantly. A growing number probe what the European Union's founding father, Jean Monet, called "deep running currents"—developments underfoot that recast lives and communities.

And self-regulation mechanisms, including press councils, are taking root in some capitals. They tackle issues of accuracy, fairness and the right of reply.

But far too many of us muddle along. "Pack reporting" prevails in major beats. In the Department of Justice, a "ponente" scribbles a bland common report for other reporters, says the Philippine Journalism Review. But fat cats do not ask tough questions. Who challenges the official lines?

"Pack reporting is insidiously convenient ... with its comforting blanket of conformity," an International Press Institute paper notes. A government-smothered press betrays readers. "Truth telling is the loneliest of businesses."

Other newsmen bog down in the superficial. This make us vulnerable to "special pleaders" politicians, spinmeisters or radical-left commissars. They'd chisel our pages and programs into their graven images.

And there are the corrupt. Broadcast has yet to decisively resolve the issue of "block timers." Some broadcasters turn into "electronic gunslingers" offering services to the highest bidder, specially during elections. Print grapples with blurry conflict-of-interest issues.

Press freedom compels us to throw light on "what would otherwise be the dark recesses of people behaving at their worst." And journalism becomes a barricade that triggers opposition, confusion, sometimes assassins. Since 1986, more than 54 journalist have been murdered. Their killers and masterminds have not been convicted.

In these raw confrontations with reality, the outstanding, the mediocre and the sloppy among us become "prisoners of a necessary cause," in the words of the Guardian's Peter Preston. "But we all have to be on the side of (freedom) because there is no other side to be on."

Refutations

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WROTE ABOUT IT LAST MONTH—THE case of Teresita Barque Hernandez vs Severino Manotok. The case seemed fairly straightforward. Hernandez had long owned a 34-hectare land in Quezon City beside Ayala Heights, bequeathed to her by her father Homer Barque. Her claim to it was challenged by Manotok, who lost the challenge.

First, the Land Registration Authority ruled that the land indeed belonged to Hernandez. The Court of Appeals agreed with its decision. The Supreme Court upheld it. For good reason: Hernandez's papers were ironclad, Manotok's was shot full of holes.

But all that seemed well would not turn out well. Unable to reconcile himself with justice, retired Justice Florentino P. Feliciano wrote Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and asked that the case be reopened with all the justices, and not just a division, sitting in judgment. The letter violated all the rules of ethics and fair play, quite apart from all the laws of God and man in this country. Supreme Court rules state clearly that a plea of this sort may be entered only before, and not after, a division of the Supreme Court has made its ruling. After the division has ruled, nothing more can be done about it. Its judgment is final and executory.

Is this a case where new evidence has been found that could possibly save the life of a man about to be hanged, which behooves rousing up St. Peter to demand the gates of heaven itself be opened? Not at all. This is not a case involving life and death, this is a case involving property. This is not a case involving new evidence, this is a case involving an old and discredited one. This is not a case that may be opened, this is a case that is more shut than the metal doors of a safe in a Swiss bank.

Why did Feliciano, a former justice who has reached an age when people think of leaving their own heirs an example to follow, do something as breathtaking as this? Ask him. I did say at the end of that column that if his plea prospered, I can only advise readers to take to the hills or abroad since they are more likely to find justice there than here.

Well, Feliciano's plea has prospered.

Last Aug. 30, Hernandez's lawyers received a letter from the clerk of court of the Supreme Court saying the Court had resolved en banc on Aug. 22 to reset the case for oral argument on Oct. 3 at the Supreme Court Building. Hernandez's lawyers were being summoned for it.

It was a classic in brevity. It was also a classic in perfidy. One can only imagine the shock of Hernandez's lawyers when they received the summons. It was so—unthinkable. As Jose Flaminiano would write later on in reply to the summons, several things are monumentally wrong with it:

First, the Court cites no reason why it effectively reopened a case that was beyond reopening. Well, how can it? It is not hard to imagine the kind of bind it was in. If it mentioned that the reason for reopening the case was Feliciano's letter, it stood to be suspected of supreme *pakikisama*, or worse of giving in to supreme temptation. If it did not and left the reason unspecified, it stood to be pilloried for supreme folly. Clearly, it thought supreme folly was much the lesser evil. Such has life gotten in these parts the one institution tasked with showing supreme wisdom has fallen to this pass.

Second, the "respondents were neither notified nor afforded the opportunity to be heard" before the Court passed its resolution. The Court itself says that "notice and hearing constitute the essential elements of due process and neither of these elements can be eliminated without running afoul of the constitutional guarantee." The speed and surreptitiousness with which the Court sprung the dead back to life does not just run afoul of the Constitution, it runs afoul of the Ten Commandments. No, it runs afoul of the very separation between Life and Death.

Third, and most important, the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed the (commonsensical) proposition that a person who has won a case with that Court as final arbiter, whether as a division or as an entirety, has won "a vested property right protected by the due process clause of the Constitution." The inviolability of that is etched in tablet in the Court's own rules. Appendix E says variously: "A decision or resolution of a Division of the Court ... is a decision or resolution of the Supreme Court." "The Court en banc is not an Appellate Court to which decisions or resolutions of a Division may be appealed." "A resolution of the Division denying a party's motion for referral to the Court en banc of any Division case shall be final and not appealable to the court en banc."

The Supreme Court's decision to go against these rules is unprecedented, mind-boggling and totally iniquitous. No one provides a better—no, an ultimate, absolute and irrefutable—refutation of it than a former justice of the Supreme Court who once said very wisely, without the usual thicket of legalese:

"All litigations must at last come to an end, however unjust the result of error must appear. Otherwise litigation would become even more intolerable than the wrong and injustice it is designed to correct. Considering the litigiousness of our people and the volume of litigation being processed in our judicial system, the importance of that public policy can never be overstressed.'

Who said that?

Why, it was one (ex-)Justice Florentino P. Feliciano.

* * *

Reminder: The "Stop the Killings!" bar tour kicks off on Thursday, Sept. 21 at '70s Bistro, 40 Anonas St., Quezon City. Bands playing: The Dawn, The Jerks, Sandwich, Sugarfree, Brownman Revival and Radioactive Sago.

1st leader to ask for AI's help—GMA

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

HONOLULU—THE VAST GROUNDS OF THE handsome colonial-style official residence of the governor of Hawaii are dominated by huge century-old trees that heighten its colorful history. In the late 19th century, it was the home of Hawaii's last ruling royal, Queen Lili'uokalani. Upon her overthrow by the US and the islands' annexation in 1898 (the same year the Philippines was annexed under the Treaty of Paris), the queen was placed under house arrest in that mansion until 1917.

Last Saturday evening, Gov. Linda Lingle gave a reception there for President Macapagal-Arroyo, who came for a whirlwind 24-hour visit, en route to Manila, to join the commemoration of the arrival of the first 15 *sakada* workers from the Philippines in 1906. By the time the guests arrived, however, the mansion was enveloped in darkness, but we all thought it was part of a rather melodramatic reception where Lingle and GMA, in Aloha attire, would be ushered in amid Hawaiian background chanting. But it was no gimmick: Power had temporarily conked out in the governor's mansion.

* * *

Power came on half an hour later, and Lingle recalled with a laugh that at the precise moment when the lights went off, she and GMA were discussing alternative sources of energy that RP and Hawaii could pursue as partners. "With that power outage, I doubt if the President would still do that," she quipped.

GMA used the outage to push for alternative energy sources for both RP and Hawaii. She noted that both are highly dependent on imported fuel oil (of the 50 US states, Hawaii is the most oil-dependent), but that both also have the advantage of being big sugar producers. Perhaps, said GMA, the Philippines, Hawaii and other sugar-producing countries such as Thailand could work together on the research and production of ethanol, a sugar derivative, as alternative energy. She also used the occasion to plug for Ford Philippines in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, which is producing and exporting the Focus which can run on either gasoline or ethanol. Recall that a sidelight at the Apec Business Advisory Council conference in Cebu last month was the relaunch of the Focus by Ford president Henry Co, with GMA in attendance. She said Hawaii could consider this car in its alternative energy program.

* * *

Lingle, 54, Hawaii's first female governor and its first Republican chief executive in 40 years, has links to the Philippines that were strengthened by her visit to the Ilocos last January. She studied journalism at the California State University at Northridge and decided to come to Hawaii to try out things. She lived as a boarder with the family of a Filipino sugar plantation worker surnamed Befitel on the island of Molokai (best remembered for the leper colony run by Father Damien), until she founded a small community paper there. She entered politics as a council member in Maui, where she later ran and won two terms as mayor. In 1994, Lingle ran against Benjamin Cayetano in the race for governor and lost by 5,000 votes. Cayetano, the only Filipino-American to attain that post, served two successive terms. In 2002, Lingle, who built up the state Republican, fought another woman, Macy Hirono, a Democrat of Japanese ancestry, for the governorship and won. She's running for reelection this November and courting the 25 percent of voters of Pinoy ancestry.

* * *

GMA was also the guest of honor at a solemn and touching ceremony at the National Memory Cemetery of the Pacific, commemorating the gallantry of Filipino and American soldiers of World War II on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of RP-US partnership. Aside from US military and civil officials, in attendance at the memorial shrine, located in the crater of an extinct volcano fondly called the "Punchbowl" because of its shape, were several dozen Filipino war veterans and their families. To celebrate the occasion, GMA donated to the shrine a large rock from the Malinta Tunnel in Corregidor where President Manuel L. Quezon and Gen. Douglas MacArthur led "the last stronghold against foreign aggression in the Philippines" in the early 1940s.

With the memorial to lives lost in World War II as backdrop, GMA spoke about the extrajudicial killings in the Philippines and her government's resolve to break this decades-old vicious cycle. She pointed out that she's the first Filipino president to seek help from Amnesty International about these killings. She also praised the prospects for peace with "our Muslim brothers" and the maturity of RP-US relations "from 100 years ago in Hawaii, to 65 years ago in Bataan and Corregidor, to present times against terrorism worldwide."

* * *

Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye, who is on his eighth term, was tasked to introduce GMA, and he pledged to continue working for more benefits for Filipino war veterans. The aging senator, who lost his right arm in combat during the war, recalled that what impressed him most during his visit to the Philippines last month was the presentation in Zamboanga City of 87 solar-power projects by USAID to officials in Mindanao. Inouye said that seeing Christians and Muslims breaking bread and interacting together in Mindanao was a stark contrast to other parts of the world where they were fighting and killing each other. He noted that 60 percent of US aid is being poured into Mindanao and that former commanders of the Moro National Liberation Front have become farmers and entrepreneurs. "This shows us that miracles can happen" Inouye said, but he added that this also calls for "extraordinary leadership." One such leader, he said, is President Macapagal-Arroyo, whom he called "the voice of reason and of hope in the Philippines." Inouye may be RP's longtime friend, but now he seems to be GMA's most ardent admirer.

Torpedoing its own case

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

YOU'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO THE SOUR-FACED justice secretary. In a radio interview, Raul Gonzalez not only sought to defend his prosecutors in the Subic rape case, he also sought to "poison the well" against Nicole, Nicole's mother and her private prosecutors.

Before that interview, Gonzalez had already said that Nicole must have been "imagining" the prosecutors' poor performance just as she must have "imagined" the rape. On radio, he even challenged Nicole's mother to take a lie detector test regarding her claim that the lead prosecutor was urging them to settle.

Not content with this bashing, Gonzalez likewise lashed out against those supporting Nicole, alleging that the recent dust-up was all because of "funding" issues, particularly the proceeds of a benefit performance featuring ballerina Lisa Macuja Elizalde.

Yesterday, Towns Foundation president Imelda "Emy" Villar issued a statement clarifying Gonzalez's malicious implications. "By the very fact that rape is a crime of violence against women, Towns undertook to support Nicole in her quest for justice." Villar said. The two Towns members most closely linked with the case are Nicole's private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua and her therapist Dr. June Lopez.

* * *

TOWNS, through Villar, made clear that the organization "supports Nicole's struggle for justice" and that the group "stands fully and steadfastly behind Atty. Ursua and Dr. Lopez and continues to believe in their integrity and competence."

It also assured members and supporters that the officers "will exercise due diligence and transparency in the management and disbursement of funds we have managed to raise in this and other fund-raising ventures."

In the first place, there would not have been any need to raise funds for Nicole's legal expenses if the government had been more generous in its support. As it is, Ursua has had to spend her own money to pay for trial transcripts and other documents, while Nicole and her family have to spend their own limited funds for transportation and living expenses.

The government has a lot of explaining to do. It certainly looks like the prosecutors, led by the justice secretary, are doing their darndest to torpedo the prosecution's case. Or else, to demoralize Nicole so that she is driven to drop the case and settle with the accused.

That is why I cannot but admire Nicole's fighting spirit and resolve (I have yet to meet her personally), as evident in these excerpts from a statement she released last week:

* * *

"I AM very much interested in pursuing my case. From the very beginning my mind was set to pursue the case... My fight will be until the very end. I was never and will never be influenced by people surrounding me...

"I have made the decision to ask for a change in the public prosecution team. I am extremely disappointed about the cross-examination of the accused, Lance Corporal Daniel Smith. It was obvious that the state prosecutor did not prepare for it...I begged the senior state prosecutor to allow my private prosecutor to have her cross-examine but she told us no.

"*Mula pa sa simula ay alam ko na ang kakulangan ng paghanda ng mga* state prosecutors *sa aking kaso. Naging mahinahon ako at ang aking pamilya dahil sa alam namin na nakatutok ang aming mga* private prosecutors. (From the start I knew about the lack of preparation on the part of the state prosecutors regarding my case. But my family and I chose to keep quiet because we were confident our private prosecutors were focused on the case.)

"Is the government really interested in getting justice for me? Or does it simply want to finish the case without caring for the result? If this is so, it simply means that it is not capable of protecting or defending its citizens like me.

"When I engaged the services of Atty. (Evalyn) Ursua, she told me that I have the option to settle, that it is my right...I said to her that to settle is to think only of the short term, and I don't want to blame myself that I did not fight...I have come so far already, why will I think of a settlement?

* * *

"RECENTLY, my mother made public the advice of Senior State Prosecutor Emilie delos Santos to settle the case. I believe in my heart that my mother did not lie...

"DOJ Sec. Gonzales said that from the start he expressed his disbelief in my claim of rape. Mr. Secretary, I did not imagine the rape. Since your people are supposed to be prosecuting my rapists, you should never have said that....

"I have come to realize that what I have done is right. I only want people to know the truth and achieve justice... Fighting for my dignity as well as the dignity of my country and standing up firmly for the case is the most courageous thing that I have ever done. I will not let my family, friends and supporters down...

"*Ako at ang aking pamilya ay patuloy na nagtitiwala sa integridad at kakayahan ng aming mga private prosecutors. Nagpapasalamat kami sa kanilang tulong at dedikasyon sa kaso kahit pa man hindi namin sila nababayaran para sa kanilang serbisyo. Ang perang naiambag namin sa kaso ay napakaliit kumpara sa naging gastusin sa kaso. Kaya nagpapasalamat kami sa Towns* (The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service) *Foundation, sa Task Force Subic Rape at iba pang mga grupo na tumulong sa amin.* (My family and I continue to trust in the integrity and capability of our private prosecutors. We are grateful for their help and dedication to the case even if they're not being paid for their services. The amount we have managed to raise is so meager compared to our expenses on the case. That is why we are also thankful to TOWNS Foundation, to Task Force Subic Rape and other groups who are helping us.)"

Inconvenient truths for Gore

WORLD VIEW

Bjorn Lomborg

CINEMAS EVERYWHERE WILL SOON BE SHOWing former US Vice President Al Gore's film on global warming. "An Inconvenient Truth" has received rave reviews in the United States and Europe, and it will most likely gain a large worldwide audience. But, while the film is full of emotion and provocative images, it is short on rational arguments.

The film makes three points: Global warming is real; it will be catastrophic; and addressing it should be our top priority. Inconveniently for the film's producers, however, only the first statement is correct.

While it's nice to see Gore bucking the trend in a nation where many influential people deny that global warming even exists, many of his apocalyptic claims are highly misleading. But his biggest error lies in suggesting that humanity has a moral imperative to act on climate change because we realize there is a problem. This seems naïve, even disingenuous.

We know of many vast global challenges that we could easily solve. Preventable diseases like HIV, diarrhea and malaria take 15 million lives each year. Malnutrition afflicts more than half the world's population. Eight hundred million people lack basic education. A billion don't have clean drinking water.

In the face of these challenges, why should stopping climate change be our top priority? Gore's attempt at an answer doesn't stand up to scrutiny.

Gore shows that glaciers have receded for 50 years. But he doesn't acknowledge they have been shrinking since the Napoleonic wars in the early 1800s—long before industrial CO2 emissions. Likewise, he considers Antarctica the canary in the coal mine, but again doesn't tell the full story. He presents pictures from the two percent of Antarctica that is dramatically warming, while ignoring the 98 percent that has largely cooled over the past 35 years. The UN climate panel estimates that Antarctica's snow mass will actually increase during this century.

The movie shows scary pictures of the consequences of the sea level rising 20 feet, flooding large parts of Florida, San Francisco, New York, Holland, Calcutta, Beijing and Shanghai. Were realistic levels not dramatic enough? The United Nations panel on climate change suggests a rise of only one to two feet during this century, compared to almost one foot in the last century.

Similarly, Europe's deadly heat waves in 2003 lead Gore to conclude that climate change will mean more fatalities. But global warming would mean fewer deaths caused by cold temperatures, which in most of the developed world vastly outweigh deaths caused by heat. In the United Kingdom alone, it is estimated that the temperature increase would cause 2,000 extra heat deaths by 2050, but result in 20,000 fewer cold deaths.

Financial losses from weather events have increased dramatically over the past 45 years, which Gore attributes to global warming. But all or almost all of this increase comes from more people with more possessions living closer to harm's way. If all hurricanes had hit the US with today's demographics, the biggest damage would have been caused not by Katrina, but by a hurricane in 1926. Allowing for changes in the number of people and their wealth, flood losses have actually decreased slightly.

The movie invites viewers to conclude that global warming caused Hurricane Katrina, with Gore claiming that the warm Caribbean waters made the storm stronger. But when Katrina made landfall, it was not a catastrophic Category 5 hurricane; it was a milder Category 3. In fact, there is no scientific consensus that global warming makes hurricanes more destructive, as he claims.

After presenting the case for the potentially catastrophic effects of climate change, Gore unveils his solution: The world should embrace the Kyoto Protocol, which aims to cut carbon emissions in the developed countries by 30 percent by 2010.

But even if every nation signed up to Kyoto, it would merely postpone warming by six years, at an annual cost of $150 billion. Kyoto would not have saved New Orleans from Hurricane Katrina, but improved levees and maintenance could have. While Gore was campaigning for Kyoto in the 1990s, a better use of resources would have been to bolster hurricane defenses.

Indeed, the real issue is using resources wisely. Kyoto won't stop developing countries from being hardest hit by climate change, for the simple reason that they have warmer climates and fewer resources. But these nations have pressing problems that we could readily solve. According to UN estimates, for $75 billion a year—half the cost of implementing the Kyoto Protocol—we could provide clean drinking water, sanitation, basic health care and education to every single human being on earth. Shouldn't that be a higher priority?

Recent hurricanes killed thousands in Haiti, and not in Florida, because Haiti is poor and cannot afford even basic preventive measures. Combating disease, hunger and polluted water would bring immediate benefits to millions and allow poorer countries to increase productivity and break the cycle of poverty. That, in turn, would make their inhabitants less vulnerable to climate fluctuations.

At the climax of his movie, Gore argues that future generations will chastise us for not having committed ourselves to the Kyoto Protocol. More likely, they will wonder why, in a world overflowing with "inconvenient truths," Gore focused on the one where we could achieve the least good for the highest cost. ***Project Syndicate***

Bjorn Lomborg, author of "The Skeptical Environmentalist," is director for the Copenhagen Consensus Center and adjunct professor at the Copenhagen Business School.

Mentoring

YOUNG BLOOD

Alfredo O. Dimaano

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

IT WAS AN OFFICEMATE WHO SENT ME AN INVITATION from her friend to join a mentoring program which aims to teach public elementary students how to read. Although I work in Manila, she knew that I spend weekends in the province where the project was being held. Thinking that it would be a welcome change to my monotonous sleep-eat-watch-TV weekend routine, I accepted.

I arrived at the site, a public elementary school, an hour before the program was to begin. The students and their parents had already lined up to register and receive their learning kits as well as to find out who would mentor them. Each volunteer was assigned with two students, and each student was to be taught in two separate sessions lasting one and a half hours each.

During the orientation, the volunteers were given simple advice on how to handle students. The project organizer gave an overview of the Philippine education system.

It was so sad to know that majority of the students who enter public schools are non-readers, with 70 percent belonging to the "frustration" level. We were challenged to decrease their number and save the students who were at risk of falling into that level.

Inside each kit given to us were students' profiles and the result of a "pre-test" aimed at measuring their competency level. A "post-test" would be administered on the fourth and last Saturday of the program.

My first student was a skinny, Grade I pupil named AJ. I knew I had a lot of tutoring to do because he had scored zero in the pre-test. From his profile, I knew that both his parents finished only elementary school and that he was the youngest among six siblings.

All this didn't discourage me. When we started, my hope immediately rose because he was able to sing the "Alphabet Song" correctly. But when I gave him an exercise, he could not recognize one letter from another. How could he learn how to read when he couldn't even spell his name?

During recess, students and mentors were provided with food and drinks. I couldn't say if he was really hungry at the time, but he ate as if it were his last meal. Maybe he figured that it might be a long time before he would again taste chicken nuggets. It was a luxury his family could not afford.

I gave him my share.

Most of my fellow volunteers found it hard to teach their students who were shy and very timid. Nica was not different, but I immediately sensed her eagerness to learn. Although she could barely read, she asked questions and readily did what she was told to do.

She had two other siblings, but like AJ's, her parents did not reach high school. I knew she had great potential and I wanted her to learn as much as she could about reading and comprehension. I told her to read a few paragraphs and tell me what she learned. Most of the time, she got it right.

The four Saturdays I spent with these two children opened my eyes to the real condition of education in our country. A teacher told us that the teacher-to-students ratio in public schools was about 1:50. I could not imagine how our public school teachers could effectively teach so many students at the same time. Our program was being conducted one-on-one and we still found it hard to get the children to learn quickly. How could their teachers do it with 50 students?

I got my elementary and college education in public schools. And during our time, public elementary school students could compete with those enrolled in private schools. The only difference was that they wore uniforms and they took school buses, while we walked to our classes in our slippers. I thought then that parents who sent their children to private schools were just wasting their money. Maybe that was just sour grapes, but I was really so proud of our little barrio school.

Apparently the situation has changed a lot. Now it seems that students of public schools can reach second grade without knowing the difference between "what" and "where."

Parents, I believe, share the responsibility of teaching their children. But how can they do that when they themselves cannot distinguish between the words "thought," "though" and "through"? Some students have to struggle by themselves, like AJ and Nica whose parents work long hours in the field as farmers. I hope both of them do not see this as an obstacle but rather as a challenge to keep pursuing their dreams. I do not know what lies ahead for them. But one thing is sure: The road ahead will not be easy.

After the last reading session, I told them both to study hard and keep following their dreams. I told Nica that since she was a fast learner, she should share what she learned with her family and classmates who still found it hard to read. I advised her to always act responsibly because her parents were pinning their hopes for a better life on her.

I did not know if an eight-year-old could understand stuff like that. But Nica's smile told me she did. And I hoped that she would realize that despite her present limitations, there were boundless possibilities ahead of her.

When the post-test was done, AJ's performance had improved from zero to five. Nica turned up a perfect score!

Mentoring AJ and Nica was one of the most meaningful and fulfilling activities I have done in my life. I feel like doing it every year and I am thinking of inviting my officemates to join me. Sharing our time and whatever we can offer can be a blessing to others. It seems to me that the problem is not so much that we lack the capacity to produce and accumulate more but that we are selfish to share what we have. I was so inspired by my experience that I plan to enroll in a teaching course.

After getting a first-hand look at the situation in our public schools, I wonder how the taxes I pay are being spent. Is the President aware about what is happening in our schools? Can Jocjoc Bolante explain to AJ and Nica what happened to the P728-million fertilizer fund which could have benefited their parents who toil in the farm to provide for their children? Stories about graft and corruption, which I used to shrug off, make me furious now.

Alfredo O. Dimaano, 24, works with Philamlife. He plans to take the Professional Teaching Certification course at the UP Open University in October.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Cheating to ensure Cha-cha's success?

TALK IS RIFE THAT THE Supreme Court, despite a permanent injunction it issued in 1997 on a people's initiative, will backtrack on this ruling and pave the way for the Arroyo administration-backed Charter change—this despite the pronouncements by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos that the Commission on Elections will not validate the signatures in the Sigaw/Ulap petition.

We would like to reiterate that we are not against a people's initiative. The concept of the people's initiative is a precious feature of the Philippine constitutional system. Its basis is People Power, which brought down an oppressive and abusive ruler through the sovereign will. We believe it is one of the sacred democratic rights of our people. It is an instrument against political excesses, opportunism, inaction, oppression and bad governance. It is also an instrument to exact transparency, accountability and faithfulness from our leaders.

But people's initiative requires that the people "initiate" it, meaning, it is the people who must make the first move in this project. Not the Department of the Interior and Local Government, not the governors, mayors and barangay captains or their political operators and mercenaries. Not even the duly elected president, much less a president whose legitimacy is in question.

This is why we are opposing this "people's" initiative. It is nothing but a shameless move to keep Ms Arroyo in power. If this is not so, why the brazen disregard of the fundamental law and the rush to get it done through questionable methods? Why the lack of adequate consultations and dialogues? Why the dubious provisions on national patrimony? Why scrap a constitutionally mandated provision for local sectoral representation in all *sanggunians* in all municipalities, cities and provinces, which is meant to promote the interest of marginalized sectors? Apparently, safeguarding our lands and resources against exploitation by foreign interests and curbing local corruption and enhancing local participation are not important to Ms Arroyo.

Sadly, after our experience with all the previous *pandaraya* (cheating), it is not hard to believe that Ms Arroyo's Cha-cha could prosper. If this happens, all we can say to her is this: prove us wrong. Fine, let's have Cha-cha, but you should resign!

—JANE D. CAPACIO, executive director, Kaisahan Tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Reporma ng Pansakahan, 3 Mahabagin St., Teachers' Village West, Quezon City

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

SSS employees ought to be SSS members

I AM A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL Security System. Just like the others, I would like to know what is really happening to the SSS.

According to a news item headlined "SSS income up 23% to P3.7B" (PDI, 9/1/06)—if I understand correctly—only the monthly contributions of its members are considered SSS income. No mention of the income from its investments, although it made mention of its investments portfolio. So where does the income from the investments go?

May I also ask what accounting system or method the SSS uses? May I request the SSS to cause the publication of its annual audited financial statement for the past three years, plus the interim financial statement for the first six months of 2006?

I think it would be to the best interest of all SSS members if the "employees of the SSS" are also members of the SSS and not of the Government Service Insurance System. I think and believe that if they are also members of the SSS, they would be working hard for the interest of the members. At the moment, I am not accusing them of not doing so, but I can say that the SSS employees are receiving fat salaries, plus some benefits like rice, while the benefits of the pensioners have not been received for more than a decade now.

—JOSE R. ANGELES, 21 Fesa Court, Talon II, Las Piñas City

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza joins leaders of Sigaw ng Bayan in filing a petition with the Comelec to validate the people's initiative.

Senate has become the most useful gov't institution

THE SO-CALLED SIGAW NG Bayan and Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) have put out a paid advertisement in a popular broadsheet in their attempt to mislead the people and to malign the Senate as an institution. This move was also intended to convince the people to agree to Charter change through people's initiative.

However, the Senate today, contrary to ULAP's claim, is actually the most useful among government institutions and it should remain in our governmental structure.

Certainly, in due time, the people behind these two organizations will finally realize that all their efforts will be in vain.

—ARTURO M. TOPACIO, Topacio Bldg., Salamanca-Jaena St., San Roque, Cavite City

Electoral fraud spawning other cheating scandals

THE ALLEGED ELECTORAL CHEATing in the 2004 election that supposedly benefited Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has spawned other forms of cheating: (1) the age-cheating in the Palarong Pambansa and the (2) the nursing exam leakage.

The prevailing mindset seems to be: If it is all right for the President and her election/political operators to cheat, why can't we? That is why it is important to put proper closure to the questions that continue to hound the 2004 presidential elections, including the Hello Garci scandal and the fertilizer scam, so that those involved in the irregularities are held accountable for their actions. It will also show the public that cheating has no place in society.

The impeachment process could have been a mechanism to put closure to the question of GMA's legitimacy. But GMA's congressional allies killed the process by exercising the tyranny of numbers.

It is not enough for administration sycophants in the executive, as well as for GMA's "choirs boys" in the House of Representatives and the LGUs, to simply tell the nation to move on. This country cannot move on. This country cannot disregard the label a "nation of cheaters" by just simply moving on. Moving on requires the closing of chapters; it demands restitution and corrective action.

Moving on connotes leaving the past behind and looking forward to a hopeful future. There are times when moving on requires that a leader stepped down to give the nation a fresh start.

—FERDIE T. SIBAL, 18 Green Leaves St., Capitol Green Vill., Tandang Sora, Quezon City

KUNG 'DI NATIN PAPALITAN
ANG NAPAG-IWANAN,
'DI TAYO AANGAT.

Kung ikukumpara sa eroplano ang sistema ng gobyerno sa atin at sa ating mga kapitbansa, jumbo jet na ang kanila samantalang propeller-type pa rin tayo.

Kaya 'di kataka-takang habang sila'y pumapaimbulog, tayo nama'y bumubulusok!

Panahon na para palitan ang ilang probisyon sa kasalukuyang Saligang Batas.

Ipatupad ang pagbabago ng sistema ng gobyerno mula sa Presidential system tungo sa Parliamentary form of government... para tuloy-tuloy na ang ating pag-angat!

NASA CHA-CHA ANG PAG-ASA!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

GMA's rural support a myth

I ALMOST SPILLED COFFEE ON my shirt reading Amando Doronila's commentary "Why GMA foes failed to topple her: Time for paradigm shift." (PDI, 8/28/06)

Doronila's mediocre analysis was a waste of precious newspaper space. It would have been more interesting and consequential to read about the views of the rural folk on, say, the timing and the method of Charter change, on what it is like to live under Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan's martial rule or on what will be the impact of the "burial assistance funds" on their lives post-impeachment complaint.

The commentary promotes the blatant lie that GMA and her cohorts enjoy wide support, especially in rural areas. Forget the myth that is Imperial Manila. The myth we should be talking about is the myth of GMA's rural support. Does she really have rural support?

Of course, there are the loyal local executives who endorsed the people's initiative and the congressmen who made sure the impeachment complaint was crushed to smithereens. But I don't know about the rural voting population. The recent impeachment complaint may now be dead and buried, but the question of whether or not she stole the presidency, not once but twice, is still very much alive. And the much-touted 6 million signatures representing 14 percent of the voting population endorsing the people's initiative still have to be verified.

Meanwhile, there were reports that *provincianos* were made to sign the "people's" initiative petition without any knowledge of what they were endorsing; that barangay officials forged signatures and intimidated their constituents into signing the petition. The lie about GMA's rural support is also an insult to the people in the rural areas.

How could GMA get the support of the rural communities whose people are killed, harassed, put under surveillance, abducted and searched daily by operatives of Palparan, whom she has praised and endorsed? The killing of activists and farmer leaders in Central Luzon continues despite international condemnation. The rate has become one victim per day, surpassing the 2005 record ratio of one victim per week. Military operations have also spawned a growing number of internal refugees—civilians forced to leave their homes for fear of military attack.

Pray tell, what rural support is Doronila talking about? The only thing I could think of are the images of tight-lipped wives, sons, daughters and mothers of slain farmers. And I can imagine thousands of rural folks holed up in their homes, hardly ever going out to the fields lest they be harassed at checkpoints because they look like NPAs, if not NPA supporters, or because they don't have *cedulas*. Which is the real reason that keeps the peasants from coming in hordes to swell Edsa.

—LANI C. VILLANUEVA, 124-B Scout Limbaga St., Barangay Sacred Heart, Quezon City

GMA condemns political killings but not those responsible for them

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO and I have one thing in common: We condemn political killings. I never thought she and I could agree on anything until I saw the editorial "No end to killings." (PDI, 8/3/06) It was as if she could read my mind when she said she condemned political killings in the harshest possible terms.

I wonder if she also thinks that the 244 leftists and 47 journalists who fell prey to extrajudicial killings may not be so much of a decrease in our population, but more of human rights lost.

Did she ever think that the only sin the victims committed was to open their mouths and speak their hearts out? Did it ever cross her mind that the bullets that pierced their bodies muffled voices, or repressed meaningful ideas, or prevented cries of pain and pleas for justice from being heard? Maybe, these really crossed her mind, thus, her 10-week deadline to solve at least 10 political killings.

I could have done as she did, but I do not have the power. I, unlike her, cannot direct people around to pretend solving cases that I, myself, am responsible for. I cannot stand in front of all my countrymen and honor the man suspected to be the "executioner" of the political killings. I cannot order hooded assassins to shoot leftists. I cannot grin at the camera and pretend that I have an innocent heart and mind.

But then, even if I had the power, I won't shoot people just to make sure that my supporters' songs of praise are only ones to be heard. I won't cut short people's lives just to have my ideas carried out. I won't act like a god, deciding when and how others must die.

It is a relief that after a series of deep reflection, I have realized she is not like me. I condemn political killings and those who commit them. She condemns political killings but not those who commit them.

—DAISY ANNE T. FELIX, BA Organizational Communication, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

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E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

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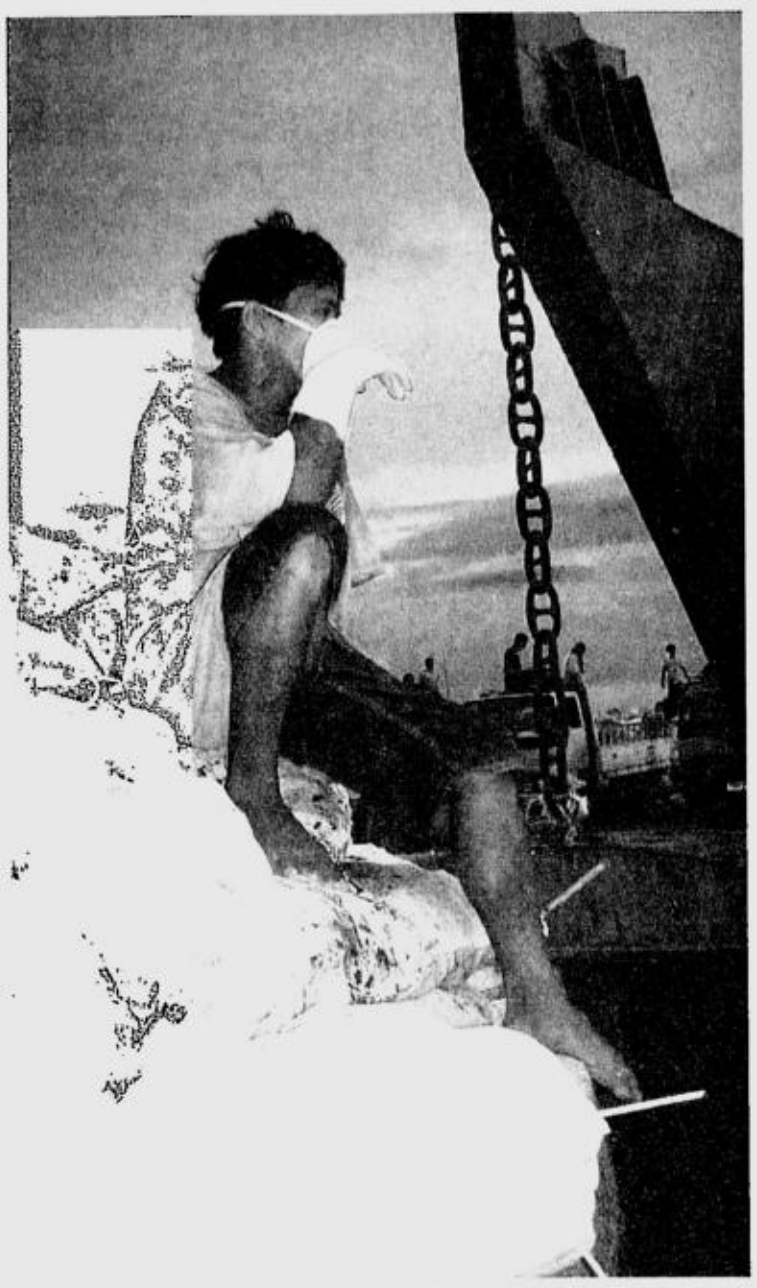

A WORKER takes a breather from tiring work loading oil debris into a barge at Nueva Valencia town in Guimaras, the hardest hit by the oil spill from Petron-contracted Solar I tanker. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Marinduque oil sludge puzzles provincial execs

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—NO ONE SEEMS TO know the origin of the oil sludge that is now starting to destroy the shores of 13 coastal areas of Marinduque, not even provincial officials led by Gov. Carmencita Reyes.

But the Coast Guard, with the help of the Marinduque Diving Team (MDT), found what it said were valuable pieces of evidence that might help determining who the culprit was.

Patches of solidified oil were seen by fishermen floating in the waters of the affected barangays on Saturday evening.

On Sunday morning, the oil patches had spread and reached the island's shorelines.

An aerial inspection conducted by Coast Guard men in one of their helicopters Sunday, however, yielded negative results on the presence of oil slicks on the island's sea waters.

In a massive cleanup of the shorelines of the affected barangays yesterday morning, a fisherman was able to retrieve a garbage bag sealer smudged with oil, which was believed to have come from one of the ships spotted by fishermen 12 km from the shore.

It was turned over to Dr. Josue Victoria, an MDT member, for further analysis and verification.

Water and sand samples were likewise sent to Manila for laboratory testing.

Provincial officials fear that the ships that were spotted by the fishermen might be carrying oil wastes gathered from Guimaras and might have dumped the oil sludge in the waters of Marinduque, thus the presence of the garbage bag sealer.

A large ship was seen by fishermen anchored 12 km from the shores of Barangay Laylay, from Wednesday to Friday last week.

However, they were not able to identify the vessel because nobody among them sailed close to it.

Nonato Jalimbawa, a fisherman from Barangay Laylay, one of the affected villages, said that on Saturday, as his group was fishing 10 km from the shore, they encountered oil patches with traces of hair strands.

"I am sure that the floating oil patches had hair strands because I personally scooped a floating oil patch and immediately noticed the strands."

In an effort to clean up the affected shorelines, Reyes and Boac Mayor Meynardo Solomon mobilized 3,000 villagers Saturday morning.

The 13 affected coastal villages of Boac were identified as Kawit, Bunganay, Amoingon, Caganhao, Balaring, Ihatub, Laylay, Tabigue, Lupac, Pili, Balogo, Buliasnin and Maligaya—whose shorelines are estimated to be 15-18 km long.

However, as the cleanup was ongoing, village officials from Bahi and Masiga of Gasan town reported the presence of oil patches along their shores, increasing the number of affected villages to 15.

Bahi and Masiga are adjacent to the town of Boac.

Reyes has assigned the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, headed by Danilo Querijero, to monitor closely the cleanup activities.

Sand and stones smudged with oil will be used as filling materials by the Department of Public Works and Highways in the province.

Rico Sanchez, another MDT member, said he hoped that the oil sludge had caused no further damage to the marine ecosystems. ***Gerald Gene Querubin and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon***

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Women's group lists 58 kid-victims of killings

A TOTAL OF 58 CHILDREN HAVE become victims of political killings in different parts of the country since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office five years ago, militant women organization Gabriela said Monday.

Emmi de Jesus, Gabriela secretary general, said the murders of innocent children happened in several massacres and indiscriminate firings during the military's counterinsurgency operations in the countryside.

She said four more unborn children would have to be added to the list of victims because their pregnant mothers were also killed by suspected members of state security forces.

According to De Jesus, Gabriela has documented 78 women-victims of political killings, many of whom were mothers.

She said many more children had become traumatized after witnessing the killings of their parents by military elements while many others turned orphaned.

"Constant military operations have also resulted in the displacements that have caused disruption in the normal daily lives of hundred of thousands of children," De Jesus said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

"To date, justice remains elusive for all these children," she added.

In some parts of Quezon, young children had also used to be taken along by their parents on a hike through mountain trails even in the foulest of weather just to register their presence in a compulsory meeting called by the Army.

De Jesus recalled Ms Arroyo's pro-children pitch in the 2000-2005 Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children when she was still the vice president and concurrent secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

At that time, she promised to create a "child-sensitive and child-friendly society" in the 21st century.

"It is no surprise that Ms Arroyo has a penchant for lying. She blatantly lied when she said she would no longer run in 2004 to heal the nation. And so breaking her promise to the children of this country is no big deal," she said.

De Jesus expressed disgust every time Ms Arroyo "uses children for her media blitz, hugging and kissing them, to portray a motherly and caring image."

Gabriela vowed to stop the "slaughter" of children.

Leftist groups invariably blamed the military and the police for the more than 700 extrajudicial killings they said had happened since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001, a claim that the government has repeatedly denied.

The string of killings has caused a big embarrassment to the Arroyo administration, prompting the President to create the Melo Commission. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon***

Vet hospital nursing staff pay tribute to late leader

THE NURSING AIDE AND MIDwives Association (Nama) of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center has taken into account the strong leadership of its former president who fought hard for the rights and privileges of its members.

The late Pedro B. Tamaray, fondly called as Papa Pete, reaped praises from Nama officers and members for his dedication to help the nursing aides and midwives of VMMC in the past 10 years, during which he headed Nama as its president.

He even went out of his way to help his members and showed a genuine concern for all of them.

"He's not only our leader in the association, but also a father to everybody. Papa Pete fought for the rights and privileges of all his members. Everybody is now enjoying what he fought for," Aurelio Baldsancho, a Nama member, said.

VMMC provides the best possible medical care and treatment to eligible veterans and their dependents.

Valerie Tamaray, one of the late Nama president's daughters, vividly recalled when his father did not fear for his life exposing a syndicate involving the disappearance of a huge volume of medicines.

Tamaray, 72, died of cardiac arrest in his bed at the intensive care unit of VMMC on Sept. 14.

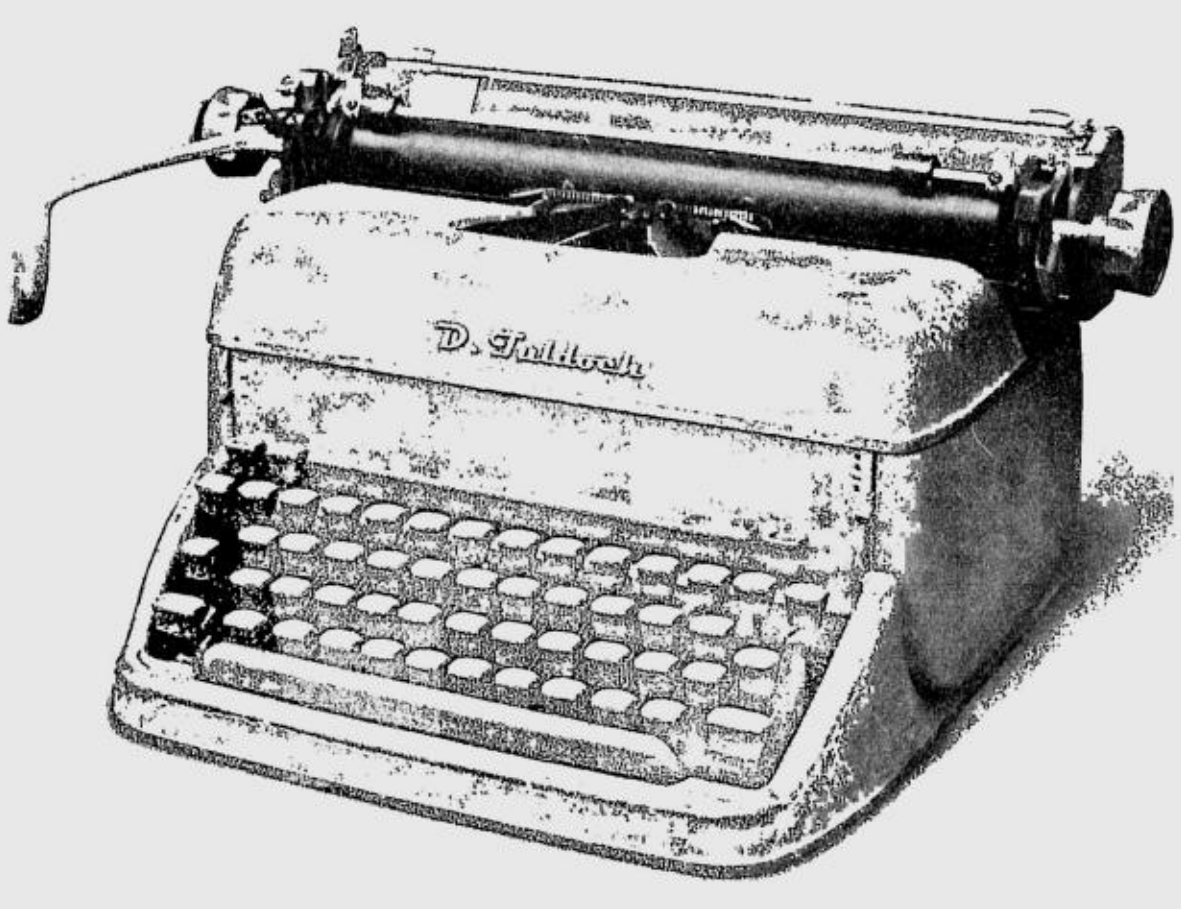
He is survived by his wife Lilia, daughters Melody, Beng, Analiza and Valerie, and sons Arnel, Paul, Anthony and Erap.

His relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at the Holy Trinity Chapel along Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat in Parañaque City.

Interment will today, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City.

KUNG 'DI NATIN PAPALITAN ANG NAPAGLUMAAN, 'DI TAYO MAGKI-CLICK.



Kung ikukumpara ang sistema ng gobyerno sa atin at sa ating mga kapitbansa, computer na sila samantalang 'tuldok-kabig-bura' pa rin tayo.

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BCDA told: Turn over land for development

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—PORO POINT Industrial Corp. (PPIC) has challenged the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) to turn over to the company 100 hectares of port area so it could start developing Poro Point in San Fernando City.

Emmanuel Moran Jr., PPIC president, said the PPIC contract called for the BCDA to deliver 30 hectares of seaport area and 50 ha of industrial area to PPIC, but so far only 18 ha of seaport area had been turned over.

"How could we start the development plan when the 18 hectares are not even contiguous?" Moran asked.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who has been working for the rescinding of the PPIC contract, said the corporation reneged on the agreement to allot P840 million to develop the seaport.

SHIPS are docked at the Poro Point seaport shortly after a violent takeover of the port by government authorities allegedly on the instigation of a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo. TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Where are funds?

But in March 2001, there was an agreement that the annual guarantee fund that PPIC would pay to the BCDA would be used to start expropriation proceedings of the properties inside the industrial park, Moran said.

He said PPIC had advanced P51.7 million to the BCDA to fund expropriation of 50 ha of private land covered by 14 titles.

"I do not know what happened to the money," he said.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina, in a privilege speech, said the areas turned over to PPIC were more than enough to build additional warehouses and expand the pier area.

But Renato Venturina, PPIC port manager, said the advance payment for the expropriation proceedings should be enough proof that the corporation was sincere in its commitment to develop the port.

"Is (advancing the payment) an action of somebody looking for an alibi?" he asked.

Expenses

He said the PPIC had spent a considerable amount for development.

"They (BCDA) kept on asking us for the development plan and we have been submitting the plan to them, revising the plan as to their specifications. But nothing has come out of it because they cannot deliver to us the land area," Venturina said.

PPIC counsel Brigido Dulay said the corporation had lost about P17 million since Aug. 4 when the BCDA stopped operations in the port.

After the court issued a temporary restraining order, PPIC resumed operations last week but many former port users were hesitating to dock, fearing losses because of the infighting between the government agencies.

PPIC has a 25-year contract to run the port that Singson claimed was disadvantageous to the government.

Dulay said the relationship between the BCDA and Poro Point Management Corp., on one hand, and PPIC, on the other hand, started to sour in 2004 when a BCDA counsel complained to Abaya about the political pressure to annul the contract with Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI), which owns 70 percent of PPIC. (PPIC is a joint venture among the BCDA, PPMC and BHI).

PPMC move

Early this year, PPMC issued a resolution nullifying the preincorporation agreement among the agencies. But PPIC got an injunction from the regional trial court in San Fernando City against its implementation.

On July 25, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued a cease-and-desist order to PPIC, citing environmental violations and the lack of an environmental compliance certificate.

The order was received by PPIC on Aug. 4. The following day, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) took over the operations of the seaport until PPIC got a temporary restraining order and eventually an injunction from the Court of Appeals stopping the PPA from running the facility.

DENR exec says logging gangs operate with impunity

LUCENA CITY—ILLEGAL LOGging syndicates in Sierra Madre are operating with impunity because of lack of government funds to sustain antilogging operations, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources admitted to the INQUIRER.

"We don't have funds to shoulder anti-illegal and retrieval operations in the mountain. What we only have are regular allowances for our limited number of forest rangers," Antonio Diwa, DENR local office head, said.

A source from the DENR admitted that, in some cases, if the retrieval of confiscated wood products was not possible due to lack of funds, the forest rangers would just destroy the seized items.

"The wood products would either be cut into small pieces or, in some cases, burned on the spot. Because if they would be left unattended, most likely, the illegal loggers would just transfer and hide them in other sites in the mountain," said an INQUIRER source.

Nilo Tamoria, director of the DENR-Special Concerns Division, clarified that the department had allotted some funds for antilogging and retrieval operations.

Limited funds

"But the fund is too limited," he said.

The expenses incurred during the recent weeklong antilogging operations in Sierra Madre, which totalled P600,000, were shouldered by environmentalist group Tanggol Kalikasan from funds granted by the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation.

"At least P252,000 were spent as payment to more than 30 '*magbubulaog*' (log haulers) who manually retrieved the confiscated flitches and lumber from several log ponds atop the mountain," said lawyer Sheila de Leon, TK-Southern Tagalog chief.

Every "*magbubulaog*" was paid P5 for every board foot of wood that he hauled from the mountain down to the DENR stock yard in Real town.

"Since the DENR doesn't have the manpower to carry out the task of bringing down the confiscated forest products, we didn't have any option but to hire the '*magbubulaog*' who were also being employed by illegal loggers in carrying out the same task," De Leon said.

Log haul

From the final tally, the confiscated illegally cut wood products summed up to 131 cubic meters (55,557 bd ft) of square logs, flitches and sawn lumber of red lauan and almaciga, a protected species, with an estimated market value of P1.9 million.

Tamoria explained that based on their agreement with TK, after the confiscated forest products have been disposed of, the DENR will return the amount to the private group.

"But I understand that they will also use the money in future antilogging operations," he said.

Last week, a multisectoral team composed of personnel from the DENR-National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force, the military and TK, combed the Sierra Madre mountain ranges for about seven days in what could be considered one of the biggest anti-illegal logging operations in the area in recent times. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Mayor asks village chiefs to bear arms for defense

COTABATO CITY—THE MURDER of a village chief here on Thursday prompted Mayor Muslimin Sema to encourage barangay officials to bear arms to protect themselves.

Sema said the city would allocate funds for the 37 villages that officials could use to procure firearms and train village guards.

Barangay chair Teofilo Albores of Poblacion Tres was killed here Thursday. He was shot in the head and body by two unidentified assailants just outside the barangay hall at around 7:30 p.m.

Sema said the police "have a lead" on the killing, but declined to share it with local media for fear of jeopardizing the ongoing investigation.

"We are waiting for more collaborative information about the case," which could also be "work-related," he said without elaborating.

Albores, a former Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal organization of the Catholic Church, abhorred the carrying of firearms. He was defenseless when shot dead by two men wielding .45 cal. pistols. The killers casually walked from the crime scene toward a squatters' area on Shariff Kabunsuan Street.

Police have been hounded by the series of crimes. This week alone, a bomb exploded and the attack was apparently aimed at ARMM Solicitor General Cynthia Guiani-Sayadi, who was on her way home with her family aboard a van in Barangay Rosary Heights-7. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

KUNG 'DI NATIN PAPALITAN
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DI 'TAYO AARANGKADA.

Kung ikukumpara sa kotse ang sistema ng gobyerno sa atin at sa ating mga kapitbansa, bagong modelo na ang kanila samantalang karag-karag pa rin tayo.

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Reyes sees RP mining rebound

MINING has its risks but, according to government officials, worth the blood and sweat of miners like this man taking a drink at a mining shaft. The country's mineral reserves have been estimated to be worth $1 trillion. EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

By Norman Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINES IS ON THE way to regaining its stature as one of the top 10 global producers of copper, gold, chromium and nickel, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said following the holding of an international mining conference in the country last week.

Reyes made the assessment after the four-day Indaba in the Philippines Mining Conference, which was attended by potential investors who are already operating in mine-rich African states.

"The Philippine government is revitalizing mining not purely for the expected economic benefits but also with due and equal regard for the environment and the communities," Reyes said.

He invited officials from mining countries to attend the Indaba conference here.

"Come to the Philippines to take a 'hard look' at the Philippine mining industry and its prospects," Reyes said. The country's untapped mineral resources have been estimated to be worth $1 trillion, he said.

Aside from getting extensive briefings on the laws and regulations governing mining in the Philippines, the participants were informed about tax and other business incentives available to mining investors.

The delegates visited mining locations in the country, such as the copper project in Tampakan in South Cotabato.

Some of them appeared impressed by the country's mining potential, as well as by the concern over social responsibility displayed by some local mining corporations.

Some of the participants manifested their desire to return to the Philippines.

"We're comfortable with risks in the Philippines. We're happy we came here as early as we did or in two years, properties will be very expensive. We anticipate we're going to be in the forefront of a world-class development in the Philippines," said Albert Brantley, chief development officer of Oceana Gold Ltd (OGL).

Terry Burgess, Anglo Base Metals (ABM) business development head, said the Philippines had just emerged on top of the world's most attractive mining investment venues.

"The Philippines is on everybody's list of countries to look at. There's still uncertainty about the implementation of mining laws, but there are few countries without risks. There are a lot of countries with great prospects despite risks associated with them," Burgess said.

ABM is affiliated with Anglo Gold Ashanti and Anglo American, which has a joint venture agreement with Philex's Boyongan copper-gold discovery and operates in the United Kingdom, Europe, South Africa, South America in gold, platinum, diamond, coal, and base and ferrous metals.

OGL is set to infuse fresh investments into the $125-million Didipio copper mining project in Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya through a merger with Climax Mining.

Owners refuse to dismantle Subic fish pens

SUBIC, ZAMBALES—ILLEGAL FISH CAGE OPerators have failed to dismantle their structures within the municipal waters of this town despite cease-and-desist orders issued by the Environmental Management Bureau on Sept. 1.

Lormelyn Claudio, EMB director in Central Luzon, ordered the removal of more than 100 fish cages built within 22 hectares of seawater in Barangay Cawag because their owners were operating without environmental compliance certificates (ECCs).

"[We] have taken the necessary actions to resolve the complaints against the operation of fish cages in the area," Claudio said.

The orders were issued to six fish cage operators identified as Biotop Philippines Agriculture Co., Manuel Sy Ko and Danilo Javier, Sahara Feeds Corp., Golden Aqua Harvest Inc., Neo-Mega Seahorse Aqua Farms Corp., and Saka Agri Ventures.

The operators were directed to voluntarily dismantle their structures within seven days after receiving the orders.

But EMB investigator Emerita Sebial said the illegal fish cages were spotted within Subic Bay and their operators had failed to completely tear them down.

"We have checked the area where these illegal structures are built but only a few cages have been dismantled. A considerable number of these cages remain intact," she said.

She said the operators were asking the EMB to give them more time to dismantle their structures.

"We have advised the operators to request assistance from the EMB if they have difficulty in dismantling their structures," she said.

Claudio said that if the cage owners continued to defy the cease-and-desist orders, the bureau itself would do the job.

"They have to strictly comply with the orders and so we urge them to stop their operations," Claudio said.

Melchor Madayag, EMB senior environmental management specialist, said fish cage operators had obtained only municipal resolutions or permits but failed to secure ECCs.

"The six cage owners continue their operations despite the notices of violation issued to them early this year," he said.

He said the dismantling orders were issued after Zambales Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain and several groups of fishermen sought assistance from their office. *Allan Macatuno, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Mayor wants ban on sale of water

By Alex Pal
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—IF MAYOR AGUSTIN Perdices has his way, ships that call on the port better have an ample supply of water because they won't be getting a drop from the city.

Perdices said he would ask the city council to pass an ordinance regulating the sale of water to ships. The move, he said, is aimed at protecting the city's limited water supply.

"We don't know how long our water supply will last," the mayor said in a press conference at Bethel Guest House on Saturday to launch the social marketing campaign for the city's wastewater treatment project.

Dumaguete draws water from underground sources, which is in danger of contamination in five to 10 years if nothing is done now to prevent it, according to Dumaguete City Water District Manager Esperato Dicen.

The city has at least two suppliers of water to ships.

Engineer Josie Antonio, the city planning and development officer, said the local government did not benefit from the sale of water to ships. "Only the businessmen benefit from this."

She also said the ships preferred to buy water from Dumaguete suppliers than from those in Cebu because "the water there [in Cebu] is bad."

NASA CHA-CHA ANG PAG-ASA!

Talagang hindi tayo aangat, aarangkada at magki-click sa kasalukuyang sistema ng gobyerno kung saan maraming kakulangan sa paglutas ng ating mga problema sa ekonomiya, sa pulitika at sa seguridad ng bansa.

Kaya't dapat bigyan ng kaukulang pansin ang tinig ng halos sampung milyong mamamayan na tumutulak sa Charter Change sa pamamagitan ng *People's Initiative*. Ang bilang na ito ay higit na labis sa Constitutional requirement na 12% ng mga rehistradong botante sa buong bansa at 3% kada distrito. Malinaw na ito ang *sovereign will of the people* na dapat hindi ibale-wala.

Ipatupad ang pagbabago ng sistema mula *Presidential* tungo sa *Parliamentary form of government*. Sa ganitong paraan, maitutugma sa ating pangangailangan ngayon at sa kinabukasan ang mga lumang probisyon sa kasalukuyang Saligang Batas.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

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THIS IS OUR LAND IN BORACAY

BORACAY residents, resort owners and their employees join rally to protest a presidential proclamation that would open prized lots on the island to public auction.

NESTOR P. BURGOS JR./INQUIRER VISAYAS

What happens to $75-M Shangri-La hotel?

By Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO last year personally led the groundbreaking rights of the $75 million Shangri-La hotel being constructed in the resort island of Boracay in an area which government now considers "forest or inalienable land," a leading Boracay resident pointed out yesterday.

"This shows that the government does not know what it is doing," said Orlando Sacay, owner of the Waling-Waling Beach Hotel.

The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) map released last May showed that the hotel is located on government land and therefore cannot be sold to private entities. The map accompanied Presidential Proclamation No.1064, which reclassifies 400 hectares of Boracay land as "forested or inalienable" while 628.96 ha are deemed as agricultural, alienable or disposable.

"The President leads the hotel's groundbreaking rights but then Malacañang later says it's located in a forest. Let's see what Shangri-La will say about this," he added.

In April 2005, Ms Arroyo led the lowering of the time capsule and unveiling of the commemorative marker for the proposed Shangri-La hotel in Barangay Yapak, which is located in the northern part of the island.

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, one of the leading hotel groups in the Asia-Pacific region, is still building the beachfront resort which will have 170 guestrooms and 50 deluxe villas. It will be opened in mid-2007.

A group of Boracay resort owners and residents have claimed that Boracay's tourism industry—which brought in P7.8 billion in revenues for the government last year—would be ruined by PP 1064.

Atong Ang homecoming creates sparks

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HONOLULU—TRUE TO FORM, Charlie "Atong" Ang continues to sow controversy.

Opinion is divided on whether or not he should be turned into a state witness in the government's plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada, which is in its final stages.

Ang is a co-accused along with Estrada, the latter's son Jinggoy, and lawyer Edward Serapio.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said Ang could prove to be the "clincher" in the plunder case.

"With or without Atong Ang, we have a strong case. But with Ang, our chances of a 100 percent conviction will be bolstered," Defensor said.

Defensor had joined President Macapagal-Arroyo here on the last leg of her five-nation trip.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, however, had a different take on the matter.

"If he [Ang] comes home to the Philippines, we won't get him as a state witness even if wants to because our case is already strong and the court is close to making a ruling on the case," Singson said.

Singson was the government's star witness against Estrada. He and Ang used to be Estrada's closest cronies until they had a falling out.

"He called me (after a US judge ordered his extradition) to say that he wanted to testify against Erap [Estrada]. I told him I believed him but my allies did not. He can come home but we can't help him. I don't know what he will say (if he is not made a state witness)," Singson said.

Ang fled to the US after Estrada was ousted in January 2001. He was accused of delivering kickbacks from tobacco excise taxes meant for Ilocos Sur farmers to Estrada and being behind the takeover of illegal "jueteng" operations via the legalized government Bingo 2 Ball game.

He was arrested in Las Vegas and underwent extradition proceedings.

Defensor said National Bureau of Investigation official Reynaldo Esmeralda and two agents had been sent to Las Vegas to escort Ang back to the Philippines.

He said government Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio was also going to Las Vegas to talk to Ang to find out how he could boost the government's case against Estrada.

With Norman Bordadora in Manila

Beltran sues cops for illegal detention

ANAKPAWIS REP. Crispin Beltran yesterday charged police and Department of Justice officials who were behind his arrest in February 2006 with arbitrary detention before the Ombudsman.

Beltran filed the arbitrary detention as well as violation of parliamentary immunity charges against former Philippine National Police Director-General Arturo Lomibao, other police officers and DOJ prosecutors after he was allowed by the Makati City Regional Trial Court to liberty from his hospital detention for the purpose.

He was brought to the Ombudsman in an ambulance and was escorted by both police and members of militant groups led by the labor organization Kilusang Mayo Uno which he used to head. The activists held a brief protest rally in front of the Ombudsman office while Beltran filed the suit.

Named respondents along with Lomibao were Chief Supt. Wilfredo Dulay, Senior Supt. Zoilo Lachica, Supt. Perfecto Marin, Chief Insp. Rino Corpuz, Inspector Honesto Gaton, SPO1 Arnold Casumpang, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, state prosecutors Emmanuel Velasco, Rosalina Aquino, Aileen Marie Gutierrez, Irwin Maraya, Ma. Cristina Rilloraza, Richard Anthony Fadullon, Quezon City prosecutors Claro Arellano, Meynardo Bautista, Mercedes Peñamora and Ben dela Cruz.

Beltran said he was arrested without a warrant and while Congress was in session, allegedly in violation of his parliamentary immunity.

Norman Bordadora

plus METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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General faces raps for accident

Ex-officer fails to show up before road mishap probers

By DJ Yap

A FORMER MILITARY OFFICIAL WHO claimed there was massive cheating during the 2004 elections was slapped with charges by a man who said he and his wife sustained injuries when their motorcycle was hit by the officer's vehicle.

Charges of reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property with physical injuries were filed on Friday against retired Gen. Francisco Gudani in the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

Gudani was accused of bumping a motorcycle at 7:45 p.m. last Sept. 7, causing damage to the vehicle and injuries to the driver, Richard Egea, 28, and his wife Jacqueline, 26.

GUDANI LYN RILLON

The INQUIRER tried to contact Gudani for comment but failed to reach him.

Egea said in his complaint that he and his wife were on a Honda XRM with plate number XO 4495, traveling on Broadway Avenue on their way to E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard, when the incident happened.

As they reached the corner of 5th Street, New Manila, Egea said the left side of their motorcycle was allegedly hit by Gudani's vehicle, which was moving in the same direction, traffic investigators said.

Not certain

Based on his affidavit, Egea was not certain if the general's vehicle was a Toyota Land Cruiser or a Nissan Patrol, but he said he remembered that the plate number was UGF 183.

Egea said Gudani brought him and his wife to the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center, or V. Luna Hospital, for treatment of their injuries.

A medical certificate issued by the hospital showed that Jacqueline suffered multiple abrasions in the knees and elbows.

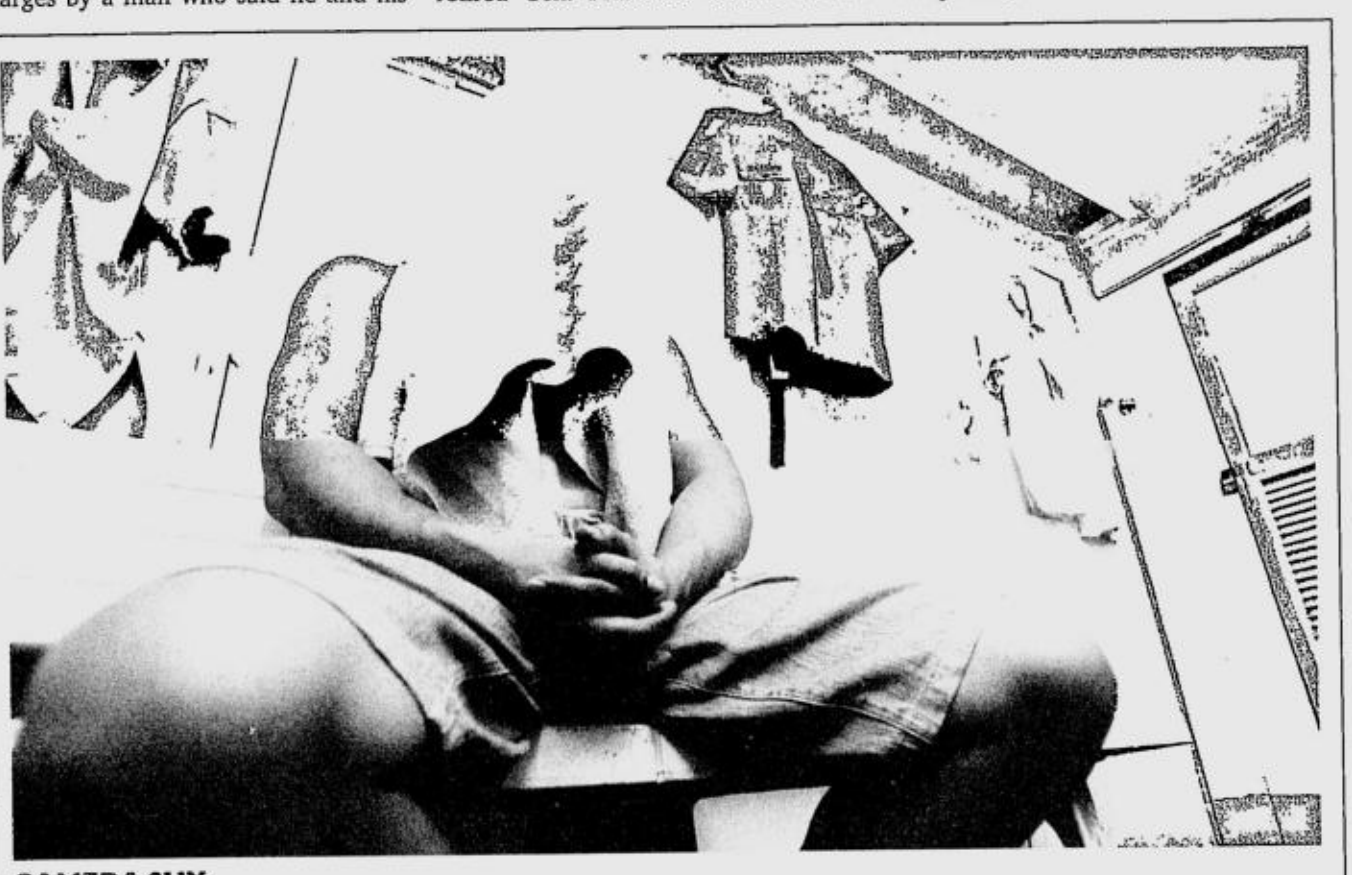
An estimate of the damage to their motorcycle was placed at P25,165.

Traffic investigators said only Egea's statement was the basis identifying Gudani as respondent, since the latter never submitted himself for investigation.

Last year, Gudani testified before a Senate inquiry that there was massive cheating in Mindanao during the 2004 elections.

The Armed Forces subsequently initiated court martial proceedings against him and another officer, Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan, for allegedly disobeying an order from Malacañang forbidding military personnel from participating in the Senate investigation.

Gudani was the First Marine Brigade commander in 2003 who headed Joint Task Force Ranao, which was tasked with maintaining peace and order in the Lanao provinces during the May 2004 elections.



CAMERA SHY
PO1 Daniel Villanueva, a member of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force, covers his face with a towel after he was arrested by Manila policemen for indiscriminate firing yesterday on Herrera Street, Tondo. The bullets allegedly fired by Villanueva and another policeman, PO2 Allan Trinidad, hit three persons, killing one of them. Police are still looking for Trinidad who escaped. REM ZAMORA

DID YOU KNOW

A FILIPINO mathematician teaching at New York University, Dr. Leopoldo Torralballa, broached the idea of a science high school in the Philippines, patterned after the Bronx High School of Science in New York City. This idea was realized in 1963 with the signing of Republic Act 3661 which established the Philippine Science High School (PSHS).

The first batches of PSHS students studied in a rented "matchbox" building near the Quezon Memorial Circle. In 1966, Malacañang allotted a 7.5-ha lot on Agham Road in Diliman for the school. The construction of school buildings began four years later on what is now known as the PSHS main campus, one of eight established nationwide. ***Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research***

Should William Concepcion decide to publish the success story of his printing business, there would be a chapter about how BPI Family Savings Bank helped him.

During college, Mr. William Concepcion did part-time work at his uncle's printing press in Manila. Since then, he had set his sights on building his own printing business. *"I went into several other businesses, waiting for the right opportunity to come. And when it came in 1985, I started my dream business"*, Concepcion said, thinking about that day when WILLPRINT opened its doors to its first clients.

WILLPRINT started in a small building in Naga City, with letterpress machines and only 12 employees. In no time, Mr. Concepcion managed to position his company as one of the key businesses in Bicol. In 1992, they moved to their own four-storey building in Naga.

"Like any business, we also encountered problems, such as acquisition of technology and limited production capacity. This is where we needed the help of BPI Family Savings Bank*"*, said Mr. Concepcion.

With the loan from BPI Family Bank's Grow Your SME Business Loan, WILLPRINT was able to purchase more printing machines and other equipment. Most importantly, the Concepcion family was able to construct its own printing complex in Concepcion Grande, Naga City. Today, WILLPRINT is the leading printing company in Bicol, with several branches all over the region, providing employment to more than 150 employees. *"The loan helped a lot. We are now in a unique competitive market position. Thanks to* BPI Family Savings Bank*"*, Mr. Concepcion said as he stood proudly in front of the WILLPRINT printing complex, smiling.

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Nicole's outburst unfair to prosecutors

"NICOLE" AND HER MOTHER WERE being unfair when they accused the prosecutors handling her rape case of selling out to the defense.

The mother claims Nicole's rape case might be used by the government as a lever to the case against former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante who is now being held in the United States for an expired visa.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was right in saying that Nicole could be "imagining things" again as, he speculated, she could have imagined she was raped.

I know for a fact Gonzalez was not too keen about filing the rape case. He implied to me months ago he believed Nicole had consensual sex with one of the accused US Marines. But the justice secretary nevertheless left it to the discretion of the prosecutors to file the rape case in court.

Now that Gonzalez's subordinates are being accused of forcing Nicole to settle the case, the justice secretary naturally has reason to be indignant.

What was their basis for saying the prosecutors were doing a sloppy job of cross-examining the accused? How would they know, since they're not lawyers?

Nicole and her mother probably thought the prosecutors were selling out to the defense when they saw them bantering with defense lawyers during a break in the court proceedings. But that's how lawyers in litigation are; they can argue heatedly against each other during a court session, but are friendly off court.

From where I stand as a kibitzer, the defense has been able to present a good picture of the incident inside the van and how the supposed consensual sex took place between Nicole and Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

Are Nicole and her mother now raising a big noise to divert attention from the seemingly convincing arguments of the defense?

* * *

A friend of mine, who is a member of the Rotary Club, called to say he was disappointed with me for dragging the name of the prestigious worldwide civic club in writing about Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante.

Bolante is being held in a US immigration jail for an expired visa. He'd rather be detained in the United States than face investigation by the Senate on how he disbursed P728 million in agricultural funds during the last election.

I told my friend not to be upset since Bolante is a top official of the Rotary Club International. In fact, he once gave the reason he could not attend the Senate investigation because he was doing errands for the Rotary.

I'm surprised why the Rotary Club did not persuade him to attend the Senate hearing since not doing so would violate at least two of the club's four-way test: (1) Is it the truth? (2) Is fair to all concerned?

As long as Bolante refuses to come home to face the music, the Rotary Club's name hangs in the balance.

* * *

I condole with the parents of Diana Divina, 21, an Arellano University nursing student who was stabbed dead by one of two men who held her up at the corner of Boni Serrano and 19th Avenues in Murphy, Quezon City. I am a parent so I know how it feels.

Divina was stabbed after she refused to hand over her handbag to two motorcycle-riding men. The poor girl didn't want to part with her personal effects, including a cellular phone, that were in the bag.

The police should do everything to catch the girl's killers and bring them to justice.

If the crime were committed in Davao City, Divina's killers would not get far. Chances are, they would suffer the same fate as their victim's.

But the crime happened in Metro Manila where the police and local officials don't care much about securing the safety of citizens in the streets.

Task force eyes money angle in Binay aide slay

By Alcuin Papa and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE POLICE YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED the creation of "Task Force Glean" to look into the slay of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay's security chief in Taguig City last Saturday.

Senior Supt. Ricardo Padilla, Southern Police District (SPD) director, said he has ordered the task force to conduct a special investigation into the killing of Pablo Glean, Binay's security chief who also headed Makati's Business Permits and Licenses Office.

"The task force was created so the investigation would be able to take on a clear direction," Padilla told the INQUIRER.

A top official of the Philippine National Police (PNP), meanwhile, said they have yet to find proof that Glean's death was politically motivated as Binay has claimed.

"We have no basis to conclude that the Glean killing is politically motivated because of the lack of sufficient evidence," said Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, the PNP deputy chief for administration.

He added that he has not received any information about any plan to liquidate opposition leaders as reported by Binay.

The Makati mayor said that a few days before he was gunned down, Glean had told him that two groups with the code names: "Task Force Spider" and "Operation Phoenix" were supposedly out to conduct "special operations" against opposition leaders.

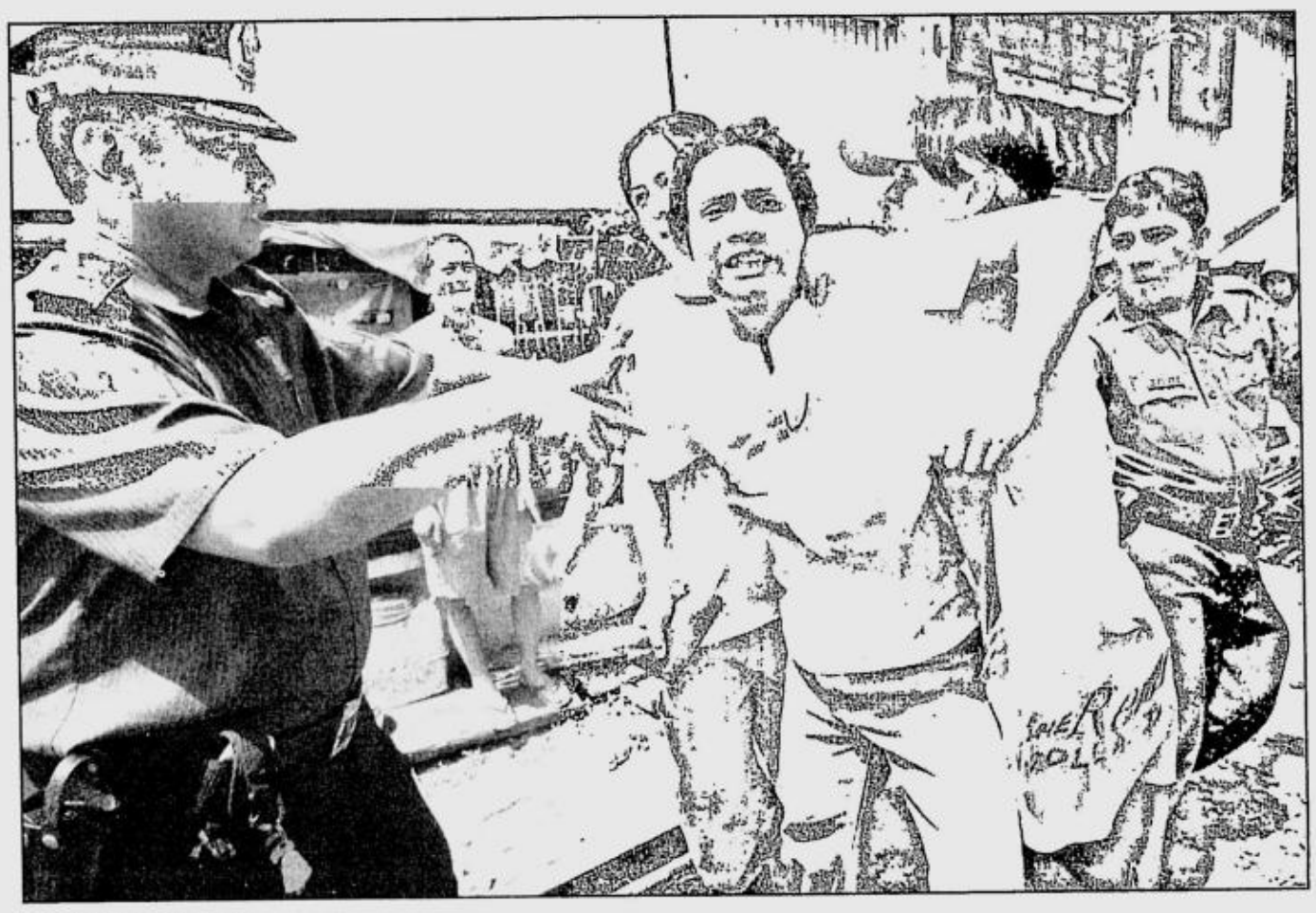
According to Padilla, Task Force Glean will be headed by Taguig police chief Supt. Alfred Corpus. It will be supported by the investigation division of the Makati police, the SPD intelligence unit, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and traffic enforcement group.

Corpus said that they would also look into an alleged dispute over money in the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. which could have led to the killing. Glean was a member of the association.

"There are a lot of angles to consider. But we can only develop them with the help of people close to Glean," Corpus added, although he said they were having difficulty talking with the victim's family.

Glean was gunned down last Saturday morning by four armed men while having coffee at a gasoline station at the Global City in Fort Bonifacio.

A security guard, Benhur Bernados, was also killed in the incident that Binay believes was part of a plot to assassinate him.



NO DEMOLITION
Three protesters are apprehended by policemen during a rally protesting the demolition of houses along the railroad tracks in Sta. Mesa, Manila. The three are members of a group opposed to the demolition of houses that would make way for the government's Southrail project.
REM ZAMORA

Witness could have saved rob victim, says police investigator

By DJ Yap

THE NURSING STUDENT WHO WAS stabbed dead by two robbers on Saturday night could have cheated death had a tricycle driver who saw the incident intervened, according to Quezon City police.

"He was only five to eight meters away when it happened. But he was afraid because he thought the suspects had guns on them," said investigator PO2 Leo Nino Pasco.

In addition, the driver knew the case about another tricycle driver who was killed when he tried to help a robbery victim, the policeman added.

"He knew another tricycle driver who had also been a witness to a similar robbery incident. When he tried to help the victim, the robbers shot him dead," Pasco said.

On Saturday night, Diana Divina, 21, a third year student at Arellano University, was stabbed after she struggled against two motorcycle-riding men who were trying to grab her bag, containing her mobile phone and other valuables.

She died the next day while undergoing surgery at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center for multiple stab wounds in the back of her torso.

So far, no suspects have been identified but police are still talking to other witnesses who might provide clues that could help track them down.

"The witness said the two were wearing helmets and black jackets, so it's hard to identify them," Pasco said, adding that the victim's handbag had not been recovered.

The policeman said he would also interview a security guard who saw what happened to Divina.

Rogue cops next target of Pasig mayor

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SAYING HE HAS REGAINED HIS POLICE powers, Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio yesterday asked the city police not only to go after peddlers of illegal drugs, but also rogue cops protecting them.

"There are policemen in the city who are involved in the peddling of illegal drugs. We know that," Eusebio told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"We are still in the process of tracing them. We don't want to commit mistakes in identifying policemen involved in illegal drugs," the mayor added.

Four months after the National Police Commission withdrew his control over the Pasig City police in early March, Eusebio regained his police powers in July.

The Napolcom had stripped Eusebio of his police powers because of his decision to demolish a compound of shabu dens just five days after members of the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (PNP AIDSOTF) raided the area.

In an unprecedented operation on Feb. 10, which also revealed the gravity of the city's problem with illegal drugs, the PNP AIDSOTF discovered more than 50 shabu dens in Barangay Sto. Tomas, just a few meters away from City Hall and the Eastern Police District headquarters.

Five days later, Eusebio led the demolition of the shabu dens, drawing flak from the PNP which said the houses there formed part of the evidence against the arrested shabu peddlers, and prompting the stripping of his police powers. But the Napolcom finally restored his police powers in July, the INQUIRER learned.

Eusebio said yesterday his priority was to make sure drug peddlers in the city would not be able to put up another shabu superstore as huge as the one police had discovered in Sitio Mapayapa.

"We have created a team of a few policemen to go after illegal drug peddlers. The tips given us are passed on to this team, so policemen protecting drug peddlers would not know our police operations," Eusebio said. Yesterday, police presented at the mayor's office nine drug suspects arrested during a raid four days ago in Barangay Palatiw.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
San Fernando City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of La Union through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Construction of Bucao Bridge
Location : San Gabriel, La Union
Brief Description : Structure Excavation; Embankment; Aggregate Base Course; Portland Cement Conc. Pavement; Concrete Piles; Reinforcing Steel; Concrete Class "A"; Stone Masonry; Erection of Super Structure; Conc. Deck Installation; Material Transport; Field Office, Bodega & Billboard; Grouting of base plate/anchor bolts; Drain Pipe, handrails & rail post.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P8,283,173.93
Contract Duration : 300 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 19-22, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 19-22, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 19-22, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 25, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 26, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	September 29, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 11, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Provincial Capitol, San Fernando, La Union, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 to the Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amont of P16,570.00 to the Provincial Treasurer's Office

The Provincial Government of La Union assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) GEOFFREY S. TILAN
Provincial Administrator
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 12 & 19, 2006)

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPIZ
City of Roxas, Province of Capiz
(036) 6210-036 Local 254
Fax No.: (036) 6210-036 Local 158

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Name of Contract : One Job Order for the supply of Labor, Materials & Equipment for Hot Impermeable Asphalt Overlay of Track Oval for the Villareal Stadium, Roxas City containing an area of 4,900 sq. mtrs. More or less with thickness of 30mm
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P3,927,000.00
Source of Fund : Non-Office 2005

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Starting of submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application of Eligibility	Sept. 25-Sept. 29, 2006
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 02, 2006
3. Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 13, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	Oct. 20, 2006

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules And Regulations of the Republic Act 9184.
2. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms at Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of prescribed non-refundable fee of PESOS: Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00).
3. Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address.
4. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished technical and financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes before the deadline of submission of bids.
5. BAC Committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
6. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not to award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) DANTE B. BERMEJO
Chairman
BAC Committee

(PDI-Sept. 19 & 22, 2006)

METROBRIEFS

Saved by neighbors

THANKS to her neighbors and alert watchmen, a restaurant cashier got back her bag containing P60,000 in cash which she almost lost to two robbers in Mandaluyong City the other night. SPO1 Noli Cortez said cashier Victoria Torres, 56, had just come from the PVL Food Center and was walking on Lopez Street in Barangay New Zaniga when two men blocked her path. Torres was on her way to turn over the restaurant's earnings of P60,000 to her employer Norma Lim, as she did every day, Cortez added. As one of the robber grabbed her bag, Torres held on, causing her to fall to the ground. Some neighbors, however, noticed the commotion and immediately called barangay watchmen.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Minty, fresh 'bomb'

A TOOTHPASTE tube that was mistaken for a bomb created a traffic jam on the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) yesterday. Chief Insp. Enrique Sy of the Parañaque Police Community Precinct-3 said the "bomb" was reported by two security guards of the Philippine National Construction Corp. It was found at the corner of the West Service Road and General Santos Avenue at the Bicutan Interchange at around 12:30 p.m. The suspected explosive device, fortunately, turned out to be a dud.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Natural health exhibit

PRODUCTS and services offered by the natural health industry will be featured in the Beauty and Fitness World 2006 3rd Professional Exhibit on Oct. 10 to 12 at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Those interested in putting up a booth can call 3717016 or Worldexco at 8558342 to 45.

Israel panel to investigate handling of Lebanon war

JERUSALEM—THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT established a committee on Sunday to investigate the political and military leadership's handling of the recent war in Lebanon.

In Israel, which expects swift and decisive military victories, many citizens say that the military campaign in Lebanon was poorly planned and executed, and that leaders should be held accountable. Israel could not halt the rocket fire into northern Israel by the Lebanese group Hezbollah, and it has not achieved the return of two soldiers Hezbollah captured in the cross-border raid on July 12 that ignited the month-long conflict.

The committee "will examine the political leadership and the security echelon regarding all aspects of the campaign in Lebanon," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told his Cabinet at the beginning of its weekly session.

The Cabinet voted, 20-2, for the committee, which will be led by a retired judge, Eliyahu Winograd.

However, dozens of protesters outside the prime minister's office demanded that the investigation be carried out by a state commission. Such a commission would have greater power and be seen as more independent because it would be appointed by a Supreme Court judge instead of by the government it was investigating.

Many Israelis, including a large number of disgruntled reserve soldiers, have been demanding an inquiry since the fighting ended Aug. 14. Olmert has faced some of the harshest criticism, and his popularity has plummeted.

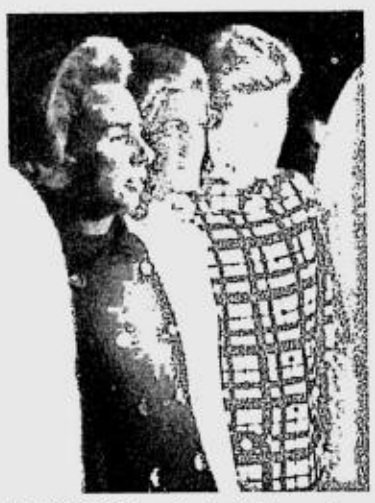
On Sunday, the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, left on a trip that will take him to the United Nations this week for the opening of the General Assembly. His absence puts on hold talks about a national unity government for the Palestinians, which had been marked by increasing friction. *NYT*

A FRENCH Unifil soldier sits on top of a tank in front of portraits of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (left) and Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah at the entrance of the village of Deir Kifa, Sept. 17. AFP

Patricia K. Lawford, JFK sister, dies at 82

WASHINGTON—PATRICIA Kennedy Lawford, the sister of President John F. Kennedy and wife of English actor Peter Lawford, who tirelessly supported the political campaigns of her brothers, died on Sunday at the age of 82.

A lifelong lover of the arts who devoted much of her time to charity work, Lawford died surrounded by family at her home in New York from complications from pneumonia.



PATRICIA Lawford, right, and Jean Smith, center with Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, wife of slain Sen. Robert Kennedy during his funeral June 7, 1968. AP

"Everyone who knew Pat adored her," her brother, Sen. Edward Kennedy said in a statement issued by the family.

"She was admired for her great style, for her love and support of the arts, her wit and generosity—and for the singular sense of wonder and joy she brought to our lives. We grieve her loss." Born in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1924, the sixth child and fourth daughter of daughter of Rose and Joseph Kennedy, Lawford was educated partly in London where her father was US ambassador to Britain.

She attended Rosemont College in Pennsylvania and pursued an interest in the theater that continued after she graduated. She worked in the New York production department of the NBC television network and moved to Los Angeles where she took a job in radio.

She married Peter Lawford, whom she had met through her brother John in 1954. They had four children. *Reuters*

WorldBriefs

'Global Day for Darfur'

NEW YORK—Meetings and rallies were held in nearly 50 cities worldwide on Sunday to call for an end to the civil war in Sudan's western Darfur region which has led to the deaths of more than 300,000 people. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch were among around 30 human rights groups behind the Global Day for Darfur. The event was organized to coincide with the start of the United Nations General Assembly debate this week and to mark the first anniversary of the signing of the 2005 UN World Summit Outcome Document. The document pledged "to take collective action... if national authorities manifestly fail to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity," according to the event's organizers. Demonstrations took place in cities across the globe, stretching from Bamako to Berlin, Dubai to Dublin, Manama to Melbourne and from Seoul to Stockholm. The conflict in Darfur between rebels and government-backed Arab militia began in February 2003 and has left more than 300,000 people dead and 2.5 million displaced, according to the United Nations. *AFP*

Diabetes drug therapy effective

ROME—Drug therapy can prevent the development of diabetes in millions of people who are at high risk for the disease, a major study suggests, potentially opening a new path for curbing a worldwide epidemic. In the study, presented Friday at a meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes, people in high-risk categories who took the drug rosiglitazone for three years reduced their chance of developing diabetes by two-thirds. The study involved about 5,000 people in 21 countries. "This is a very large effect, the kind of thing that you don't expect to see in a clinical trial," said Hertzel Gerstein, the study's main author, a professor at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. But some independent scientists and advocacy groups expressed skepticism about the study, which was published Friday on the Internet by The Lancet, the British medical journal, and promoted extensively by GlaxoSmithKline, which makes rosiglitazone and sells it under the brand name Avandia. "We've looked carefully at the data, and it's just hard to know how many people would benefit and at what cost," said Cathy Moulton, a care adviser for Diabetes UK, an advocacy group in London. *NYT*

Fake Indian currency

NEW DELHI—A Pakistani government printing press in the city of Quetta is churning out large quantities of counterfeit Indian currency, The Times of India reported Monday. The rupee notes are then smuggled into India as "part of Pakistan's agenda of destabilizing (the) Indian economy through fake currency," the daily said. The notes are "supplied by the Pakistan government press (at Quetta) free of cost to Dubai-based counterfeiters who, in turn, smuggle it into India using various means," the report said quoting a Central Bureau of Intelligence note to Indian security agencies and the finance ministry. *AFP*

Iraq attackers kill 30

KIRKUK, IRAQ—INSURGENTS killed at least 30 people and aggravated Iraq's hostile ethnic divide with a string of bombs in the northern city of Kirkuk, as well as attacks in volatile Anbar province and in Baghdad on Sunday.

In Kirkuk, a huge suicide truck bomb in coordination with four other vehicle bombs killed 23 people and wounded 77 others.

Mortars and car bombs killed five in the city of Fallujah in Iraq's biggest and most volatile province of Anbar, where US forces are being reduced to reinforce Baghdad.

Kirkuk is an oil-rich flashpoint in the north disputed by Sunni Arabs, ethnic Kurds and Turkmen. A failure to contain violence could spark all-out war across a country already in the grip of sectarian strife between Muslim Shiites and Sunnis.

In the deadliest blast on Sunday, a suicide attacker driving a truck rigged with explosives blew himself up outside a police center killing 17 people, mostly civilians, police said.

Within an hour, a car bomb targeting a US military patrol killed three civilians. Minutes later, another suicide car bomber rammed into an Iraqi army checkpoint, wounding two soldiers. Two other car bombs followed. *Reuters*

Rivals to copy iPod success

NEW YORK—SEVERAL RIVALS of Apple Computer Inc. plan digital music devices to work closely with their own online music services, just as Apple's iPods and iTunes do, The Wall Street Journal reported on Monday.

RealNetworks Inc. on Monday plans to announce a deal with SanDisk Corp. to sell a digital music device that is designed to work with RealNetworks' online music service, Rhapsody, according to The Journal.

That move follows one by Microsoft Corp., which will release a digital music player this holiday season that will be coupled with its own online music service, the paper said.

Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. is working on a similar plan, the Journal reported.

The deals are an effort by Apple competitors to improve coordination between online song sellers and digital-device makers.

Many consumers have been frustrated by hardware and software glitches when they try to download songs sold by one company onto a gadget made by another, the Journal reported.

The iTunes Store and iPods, by contrast, have long worked smoothly because they were both designed by one company, Apple, to operate together. *Reuters*

METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT
Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply, Installation & Commissioning one (1) unit Water Meter Test Bench

1. The METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT, through the 2006 Corporate Budget by the MCWD Board intends to apply the sum of ***Php2,395,500.00*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***PR No. 15453 Supply, Installation & Commissioning of one (1) unit Water Meter Test Bench***. Bid received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for ***Supply, Installation & Commissioning of one (1) unit Water Meter Test Bench*** Delivery of the GOODS is required ***within 120 days from the receipt of the approved Purchase Order/Contract*** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below from September 20-29, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and upon payment of nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00. The method of payment will be ***Cash*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative
6. The METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 02, 2006 at the address below
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. of October 17, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by ***Cash bid security*** 1% of ABC or an equivalent amount of Php23,955.00. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **October 17, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** at the MCWD Boardroom same address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Manuel D. Magdael, BAC Chairman
Governor Gutierrez Avenue, Cotabato City
Tel. No. (064) 421-1070 / 421-3566
Fax No. (064) 421-3009

(Sgd.) MANUEL D. MAGDAEL
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Sept. 12 & 19, 2006)

TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Mux Equipment and Accessories
[Reference No.: PB060531-EL0090 (PB2)]

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board* intends to apply the sum of **Php 5,480,800.00** being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Mux Equipment and Accessories.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Mux Equipment*. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting **September 18, 2006 to October 13, 2006 from 9:00 A.m. to 4:00 P.M.** at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).*** The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 2, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.** at the same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 P.M. of October 16, 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 54,808.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 82,212.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 137,020.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 5,480,800.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on **October 16, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.** at the *Admin Conference Rm. same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812235 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 19 & 25, 2006)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPLEX, SERGING OSMEÑA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA,
CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 232-3401 to 04, FAX NO. (032) 232-1990
Email: pdovisayas@ppavis.com • Website: www.ppavis.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office – Visayas**, through its Bids and Awards Committee – Engineering Project (BAC-EP), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

A.	Name of Contract	Provision of Physical Facilities & Equipment for Port Security
	Location	Liloan Ferry Terminal, Liloan Southern Leyte
	Required Experience	**1.0 Building Construction**
	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	**P6,816,817.33**
	Source of Funds	PPA Corporate Funds
	Contract Duration	45 CD
	PCAB Registration	Small "B" for Building & Industrial Plant

Required Equipments

1.0	1 unit	Welding Machine (300 Amp)	Owned
2.0	1 unit	Acetylene Cutting Outfit	Owned
3.0	1 unit	Backhoe (0.50 cu.m.)	Owned/Leased
4.0	1 unit	Air Compressor (250 cfm)	Owned
5.0	1 unit	Jackhammer	Owned
6.0	1 unit	Concrete Cutter	Owned
7.0	1 unit	One bagger Concrete Mixer	Owned

B.	Name of Contract	Proposed Rehabilitation of Causeway & Back-up Area
	Location	Sitio Puntales, Brgy. Nipa, Concepcion, Iloilo
	Required Experience	**1.0 Construction of Causeway** Causeway 450.00 SQ.M
	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	**P17,618,138.10**
	Source of Funds	PPA Corporate Funds
	Contract Duration	210 CD
	PCAB Registration	Small "B" for Ports, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

Required Equipments

1.0	1 unit	Backhoe (0.50 cu.m.)	Owned/Leased
2.0	1 unit	Road Roller (10T)	Owned/Leased
3.0	1 unit	Road Grader (125hp)	Owned/Leased
4.0	1 unit	Truckmounted Crane (25T)	Owned/Leased
5.0	1 unit	Rock Grapple (2.0 cu.m.)	Owned/Leased
6.0	1 unit	DumpTruck (10.0 cu.m.)	Owned/Leased
7.0	1 unit	Bar Cutter	Owned
8.0	1 unit	Welding Machine	Owned
9.0	2 units	Concrete Vibrator	Owned
10.0	2 units	One Bagger Concrete Mixer	Owned
11.0	1 unit	Boom Truck (5.0T)	Owned

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license and registration particulars applicable to the type and cost of the contract to be bid; have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract; must have completed ***50% for Major Items of Work*** (indicated above) on contract/projects with similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid within the past ***Five (5) years*** immediately preceding the publication of this invitation and with a value of the ***Largest Single Contract*** completed must be at least ***fifty (50%) percent*** of the ***Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid,*** and meet the other eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Statement. Applications for eligibility, as well as the preliminary examination of bids, will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" criteria. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, a contract will be awarded only to the lowest calculated and responsive bidder.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1.0 Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Until October 03, 2006
2.0 Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Until October 10, 2006
3.0 Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Deadline on October 13, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas, CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City upon their submission of a LOI, photocopy of PCAB License and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **P1,120.00** (inclusive of 12% VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P3,360.00** (inclusive of VAT for above 10M up to 20M projects); **P2,800.00** (inclusive of VAT for above 1M up to 10M projects) and **P2,240.00** (inclusive of VAT for 1M below projects) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to the award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

This publication voids the last publication of the Invitation for Eligibility and to Bid for the above project which was published on September 4 and 11, 2006.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) JAMES J. GANTALAO
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Sept. 13 & 19, 2006)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

In rare move, Pope says he's deeply sorry

ROME—POPE BENEDICT XVI SOUGHT ON SUNDAY TO extinguish days of anger and protest among Muslims by issuing an extraordinary personal apology for having caused offense with a speech last week that cited a reference to Islam as "evil and inhuman."

"I am deeply sorry for the reactions in some countries to a few passages of my address," the Pope told pilgrims at the summer papal palace of Castel Gandolfo, "which were considered offensive."

"These were, in fact, quotations from a medieval text, which do not in any way express my personal thought," the Pope, 79, said in Italian, according to the official English translation.

"The true meaning of my address," he said, "in its totality was and is an invitation to frank and sincere dialogue, with great mutual respect."

His statement came amid much worry in the Church about violence and any erosion of the status of the papacy as a neutral figure for peace among faiths. In Somalia on Sunday, the Italian Foreign Ministry reported, an Italian nun was shot to death, although it was unclear if this was related to the Pope's remarks. A day earlier, five churches were firebombed in the West Bank and one in Iraq.

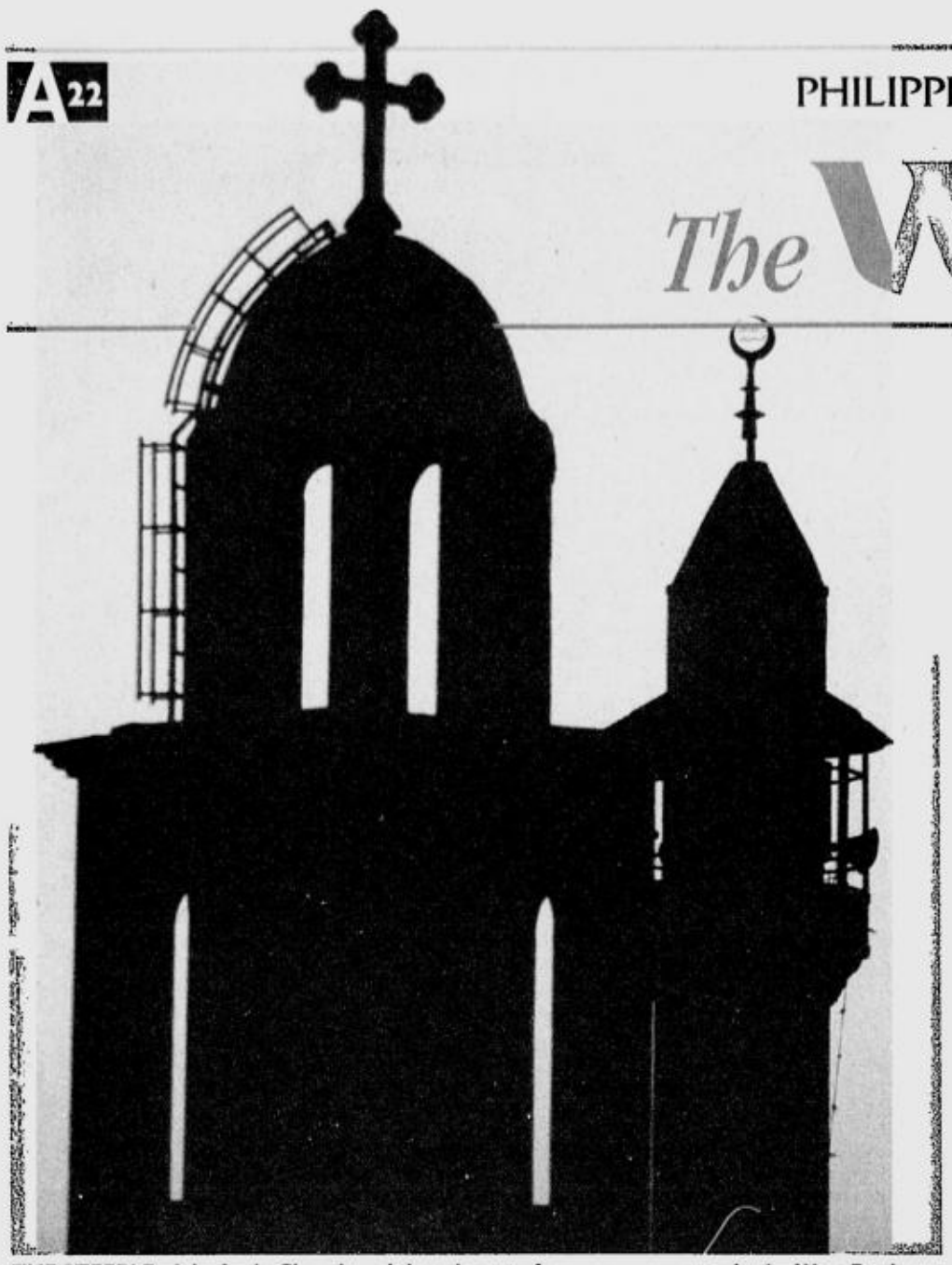
Although Benedict's predecessor, John Paul II, issued several apologies for the historical failings of the Church, experts said it appeared to be the first time in recent memory that a Pope had made such a direct statement of personal regret.

"This is really, really abnormal," said Alberto Melloni, professor of history at the University of Modena who has written several books on the Vatican.

Beyond the anger among Muslims, the Pope's comments have also provoked a complicated debate in Italy and among many Catholics, on issues including whether he appreciated the reaction he would provoke and whether the Pope's speeches, which he usually writes himself, are properly vetted by a Vatican undergoing a bureaucratic transition.

Several Vatican officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the issue publicly, said they had expressed concern before the speech was delivered that it might be negatively received by Muslims or be misconstrued by the news media as an attack on Islam.

And for many conservatives here, fearful of terrorist attacks in the name of Islam and rising Muslim immigration in Europe, the remarks of the Pope amounted to a rare public airing of a delicate concern many of them share: whether, in fact, Islam is at the moment especially prone to violence. *NYT*



THE STEEPLE of the Latin Church and the minaret of a mosque are seen in the West Bank town of Ramallah Sept. 17. Following a third day of attacks directed at the Christian church, the Islamic Jihad decided to protect the church in this village. AFP

Instances when the Vatican admitted errors or apologized

VATICAN CITY—FOLLOWING ARE some instances in which the papacy admitted errors or apologized for actions of the Roman Catholic Church.

• 1992: After 13 years of study by the Vatican, Pope John Paul II declared that the Church was wrong to condemn astronomer Galileo for maintaining that the Earth was not the center of the universe. The scientist was formally rehabilitated and the pope said Galileo's condemnation had resulted from "tragic mutual incomprehension."

• 1992: Visiting a former center of the slave trade in Senegal, John Paul begged for forgiveness for the Christians involved in the slave trade. "From this African sanctuary of black pain, we begged the pardon from above," he said.

• 1995: John Paul issued a document saying that the Church was "truly sorry" for any discrimination or mistreatment of women.

• 1995: During a visit to the Czech Republic, John Paul asked forgiveness for violence by Catholics against Protestants during the 16th century Counterreformation. "Today I, the pope of the Church of Rome, in the name of all Catholics, ask forgiveness for the wrongs inflicted on non-Catholics during the turbulent history of these peoples."

• 1998: In a document on the Holocaust, John Paul expressed remorse for the cowardice of some Christians during the Nazi persecution of Jews, regretting the silence of those who "were not strong enough to raise their voices in protest."

• 1999: John Paul denounced the persecution of Jan Hus, a 15th-century religious reformer and precursor of Protestantism who was burned at the stake.

• 2000: On a solemn Day of Pardon during the Holy Year, John Paul asked forgiveness for the sins of Catholics through the ages, including wrongs inflicted on Jews, women and minorities. During the ceremony it was the future Benedict XVI, then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who spoke of the Inquisition, confessing "sins committed in the service of the truth."

• 2000: In a visit to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, John Paul said the Catholic Church is "deeply saddened by the hatred, acts of persecution and displays of anti-Semitism directed against the Jews by Christians at any time and in any place."

• 2001: On a visit to Athens, John Paul issued a sweeping apology for wrongs committed by Roman Catholics against Orthodox Christians.

• 2001: Sending his official word over the Internet for the first time, John Paul apologized for missionary abuses against indigenous peoples of the South Pacific.

• 2006: Pope Benedict XVI said Sunday he was "deeply sorry" that Muslims worldwide took offense over a speech he gave in Germany Sept. 12 about Islam and holy war. *AP*

DENGUE SHOCK SYNDROME.

Kill mosquitoes before they start killing your kids.

It is a syndrome due to dengue virus which is most often fatal and characterized by abdominal pain, bleeding, cool clammy extremities, weak thready pulse and circulatory collapse which may occur 2 to 6 days from the onset of the disease.

That's why you need a powerful total solution that is all out in killing dengue carrying mosquitoes. Introducing Alog's Total Anti-Mosquito Products. Each one is specially formulated and designed to kill mosquito at every possible point of contact, giving you the reliable choice for your family's safety.

Don't wait for this to happen to your kid, call us at **(02) 882-4601 / 882-1767**.

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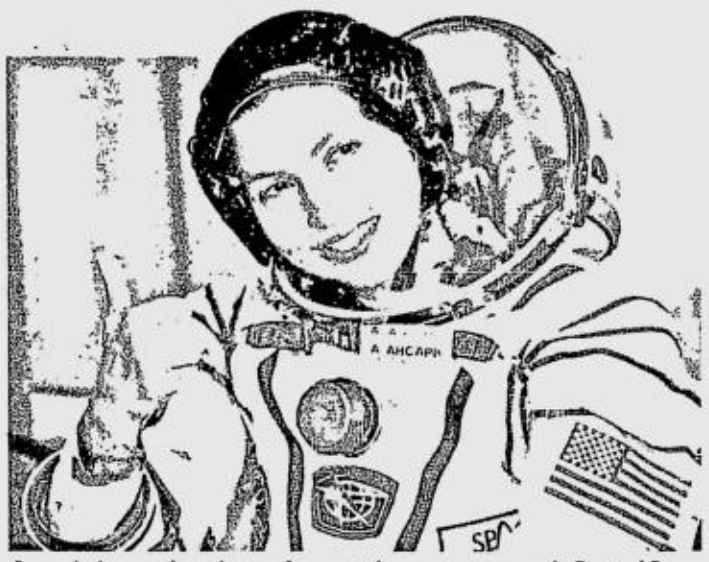
Metro Manila: Agrimex Marketing Corp (Cainta-6567441), J.B. Guevarra & Sons, Inc. (Cubao-9110676), Ordex Marketing Corp (Taguig-8381361/62), Precept Commercial Corp (Muntinlupa-8073858/8090331), Pest-Away Corp (Muntinlupa-8613403/8613404), Pycor Inc. (QC-4108090/7121802); **North Luzon:** Biopest Environmental Marketing (Tarlac-045-9821901); **South Luzon:** Inah Medica (Laguna-049-5590469), Gino's Marketing (Quezon-042-3734621); **Visayas:** Alvez Commercial Inc (Leyte-053-256020),Four-A Agro (Mandaue City-032-3458615); **Mindanao:** Cagayan Diversified Trading (CDO-0882-2727060), Markwide Specialist (Zamboanga-062-9912214).

ALOG & Company, Inc.



Ansari gives a thumb up after putting on a space suit Sept. 18. AFP

3 firsts: Iranian-born space tourist blasts off into orbit

BAIKONUR, KAZAKHSTAN—A Russian Soyuz spacecraft blasted off on Monday carrying a woman set to notch up three space records: the first female tourist, first female Muslim, and first Iranian in orbit.

Anousheh Ansari, 40, an Iranian-American telecommunications entrepreneur, joined a Russian cosmonaut and US astronaut in the cramped interior of Soyuz TMA-9 for a flight to the International Space Station.

The Soviet-designed spacecraft lifted off with a roar of its rocket engine into a clear blue sky from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

"The launch was successful," Mission Control chief Vladimir Solovyov said.

Unlike American Michael Lopez-Alegria and Russian Mikhail Tyurin, who are starting a six-month stint in space, Ansari will return to earth in 11 days with the outgoing US-Russian crew.

Ansari, a US citizen based in Dallas, Texas, who left Iran in 1984, has said she wants to be an example to her compatriots.

"I think my flight has become a sort of ray of hope for young Iranians living in Iran, helping them to look forward to something positive, because everything they've been hearing is all so very depressing and talks of war and talks of bloodshed," Ansari said last week. Reuters

Swedish PM, party voted out

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN—SWEden swept away 12 years of center-left government on Sunday, voting to reject its longtime prime minister, Goran Persson, in favor of a conservative candidate who has pledged to revise the Swedish welfare state.

With almost all the votes counted by 11 p.m., three hours after the polls closed, the right-of-center coalition led by the leader of the Moderate Party, Fredrik Reinfeldt, had taken 48.1 percent of the vote, compared with 46.2 percent for the Social Democrats and their left-of-center allies.

The Social Democrats received just 35.2 percent, their worst showing since universal suffrage began in Sweden in 1921. Persson, 57, who has been prime minister since 1996, said he would step down as party leader in March.

One of the world's most consistently successful political parties, the Social Democrats have governed Sweden alone or in coalitions for 65 of the past 74 years. The party's defeat reflects a feeling not only that Persson has become complacent in office, but also that Sweden's celebrated social welfare model, with its high tax rate and generous benefits, has encouraged too many people to stay out of work for too long. *NYT*

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Casey tops Match Play** /A26

SAN Beda's Yousif Aljamal goes for a lay-up against PCU's Micheal Belga in game one of their NCAA finals yesterday. RYAN LIM

NCAA FINALS

Lions roar in Game One

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ROOKIES PONG ESCOBAL AND SAMUEL EKWE STRUCK HARDEST IN THE FOURTH quarter as San Beda turned back Philippine Christian, 71-57, last night and moved on the threshold of the NCAA men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

The newly installed 2006 Rookie-MVP winner Ekwe hit a turnaround jumper before Escobal came through with four-point and three-point plays in succession as the Red Lions pulled away beyond recall, 63-49, in the last period.

With its explosive Game 1 victory, San Beda is expected to wrap up its first title in 28 years with a win tomorrow also at the Big Dome.

"Let's not talk about a sweep yet," said San Beda coach Koy Banal. "Let's see the possible adjustment they (PCU) will make. We are just one game ahead."

The Dolphins put up a tough fight, taking control in the second quarter and staying within 49-54 before Ekwe touched off San Beda's decisive charge.

After a Jason Castro miss, Escobal struck with a three-pointer plus a foul to boot from Liztian Amparado. He made the bonus free throw for a 60-49 cushion.

The 6-foot guard from Davao followed it up with a three-point play off the same Amparado for that 63-49 advantage.

"This is a collective effort, I can't do anything without my teammates," said Ekwe, who finished with just seven points, but posted 14 rebounds, six blocks and three steals to justify the accolade he received as the season's top individual player before the game began.

San Beda surprisingly engaged PCU in an early shoot-out with outside hits from Pong Escobal and Yousif Aljamal, giving the Lions a 20-17 lead at the end of the first quarter.

But the Dolphins settled down through Jason Castro and Gabby Espinas, who combined for seven straight points en route to a 34-30 halftime advantage.

(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—SSC vs PCU (jrs, Game 2)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs PCU (srs, Game 2)

San Beda then poured 14 unanswered points at the start of the third quarter, mostly on fastbreaks that featured two monster slams from Ekwe and a booming three-pointer from Escobal that nearly brought the house down.

Espinas picked up his third foul early in the quarter and was never a factor since then.

By the time the Dolphins managed to end their scoring drought—when Ian Garrido split his free throws with 2:43 left in the quarter—San Beda had a double-digit edge that stood at 50-39 going into the final period.

Meanwhile, defending champion San Sebastian also drew first blood in the juniors championship series, nipping PCU, 57-55, in the first game.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

SAN SEBASTIAN 57—Buenafe 15, Zulueta 12, Del Rio 8, Bringas Anthony 8, Sikat 5, Nasayao 5, Bringas Arvie 4, Soledad 0, Carlos 0, Penafior 0.

PCU 55—Anacta 13, Pascual 12, Lansang 11, Guevarra 9, Navaja 5, Degano 3, Importante 2, Delaten 0, Asuncion 0, Ibrao 0, Faurillo 0.

Quarters: 11-22, 22-31, 38-44, 57-55.

Second Game (Srs)

SAN BEDA 71—Escobal 19, Aljamal 14, Tecson 12, Angeles 10, Menor 7, Ekwe 7, Evangelista 2, Gamalinda 0, Maggay 0, Taganas 0, Hermida 0.

PCU 57—Castro 16, Espinas 14, Garrido 10, Belga 8, David 6, Amparado 3, Chien 0, Hermosa 0, Navarro 0, Graham 0, Santos 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 30-34, 50-39, 71-57.

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Ekwe proves a Tower of Power

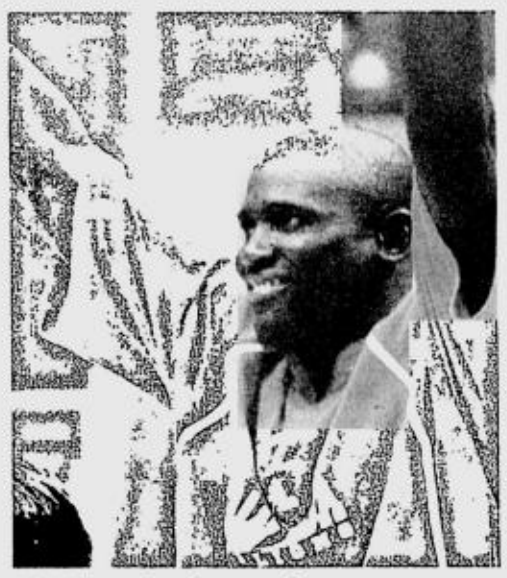
SAN BEDA'S SAMUEL EKWE, THE NIGERIAN do-it-all reinforcement, was fittingly rewarded with three of four individual awards, including the Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year plums of the 2006 season of the NCAA men's basketball tournament yesterday.

The 22-year-old marketing student from Lagos was also honored as top defensive player and headed the Mythical Five that also included Jose Rizal's Floyd Dedicatoria, Philippine Christian's Gabby Espinas and Jason Castro and Perpetual's Khiel Misa.

"This is all God's will," said the lean, muscular 6-foot-8 Ekwe, who wants to become a priest, during the annual awards rites at the Araneta Coliseum.

The former football player who took up basketball only two years ago swore he didn't expect to win the prestigious awards and that he only did what he was tasked to do: work hard inside the lane and help the Red Lions win games.

Ekwe, an intimidating presence inside the shaded area, dominated both boards and led in shot blocks to finish with a league-best 38.9 Player's All-Around Value.



SAM Ekwe: 3 major awards RYAN LIM

He clinched the defensive player award with better averages in rebounds of (13.8), blocks (2.8) and steals (.9). He posted season-highs of 23 rebounds and 11 blocks in two different games in the second round.

Ekwe actually won the same set of awards swept by the pro-bound Espinas in 2004.

Boyet Bautista, chief playmaker for the dethroned champion Letran, snagged the Most Improved Player award after posting 27.2 PAV compared with 21.1 PAV last season. It was a nice send-off gift for the 5-foot-10 skipper who was picked by Purefoods during the recent PBA rookie draft.

PCU's Elvin Pascual matched Ekwe's feat in the junior division. Joining him in the Mythical Five were San Sebastian's Ryan Buenafe, JRU's Raycon Kabigting and Carlo Lituania and Letran's Julius Wong. Perpetual's Michael Dizon snatched the MIP accolade.

Marc Anthony Reyes

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SBP officials to come from 25-man board

THE OFFICERS OF THE NEW cage body Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) will come from the members of the 25-man board of trustees chosen by the three-man panel headed by SMART/PLDT head Manny V. Pangilinan.

PANGILINAN

The election has yet to be set even as the national congress set this Saturday will push through. Pangilinan, who presided over a press conference yesterday at the Manila Hotel, announced that the constitution and bylaws of the new association had been sent to the Securities and Exchange Commission for approval.

"I express my gratitude to Joey (Lina) and Bernie (Atienza) for a job well done and for their commitment. All throughout the course of the past week, democracy was put into work and both of them acted as true gentlemen," said Pangilinan.

Lina, president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, and Atienza, head of Pilipinas Basketball, are the other members of the three-man panel that drafted the new constitution and bylaws.

Aside from Pangilinan, Atienza and Lina, other signatories to the Articles of Constitution and bylaws and interim incorporators are PBA chair Ricky Vargas as treasurer and BAP chair Michel Lhuillier.

Atienza had earlier endorsed Pangilinan, who took care of the P1 million SEC registration fee, to serve as the founding president of the SBP, but MVP declined, saying he does not have the time needed for the job.

But he promised to continue supporting the association, which hopes to get the approval of the Philippine Olympic Committee once it is approved by the SEC.

The 25-man board of trustees, composed of 12 BAP and PB officials each along with Pangilinan, will elect a chair, vice chair, president, executive director, secretary and treasurer who will hold four-year terms.

Lina said he has informed Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann of the development and he expects the international federation to lift its suspension even before the Sept. 30 deadline it has set.

Pangilinan said that he already informed POC president Peping Cojuangco of the creation of the new charter and that the POC chief gave a favorable feedback.

Atienza, also the NCAA management committee chair, said they're expecting SEC to approve the articles of constitution and bylaws on Thursday.

Lina, who is also being eyed to lead the new group, added: "Filipino basketball fans have reason to celebrate. For the past year we've been struggling since Fiba suspended us. We hope that the suspension will be lifted as earlier as the Sept. 30 self-imposed deadline."

Marc Anthony Reyes

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6 RP cyclists assaulted in KL Saturday

By Jasmine W. Payo

TRIUMPH TURNED TO TRAUMA FOR SIX elite Filipino road cyclists.

Tour champions Warren Davadilla, Arnel Quirimit and Santy Barnachea, veterans Frederick Feliciano and John Ricafort and Padyak Pinoy ace Ericson Obosa were assaulted over the weekend after earning qualifying slots in the Asian Games at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

According to head coach Jomel Lorenzo, burly men wielding hand guns and knives mugged the six athletes and junior rider Mark Julius Bonzo on Saturday night just 200 meters from Grand Continental, the hotel where the delegation was billeted.

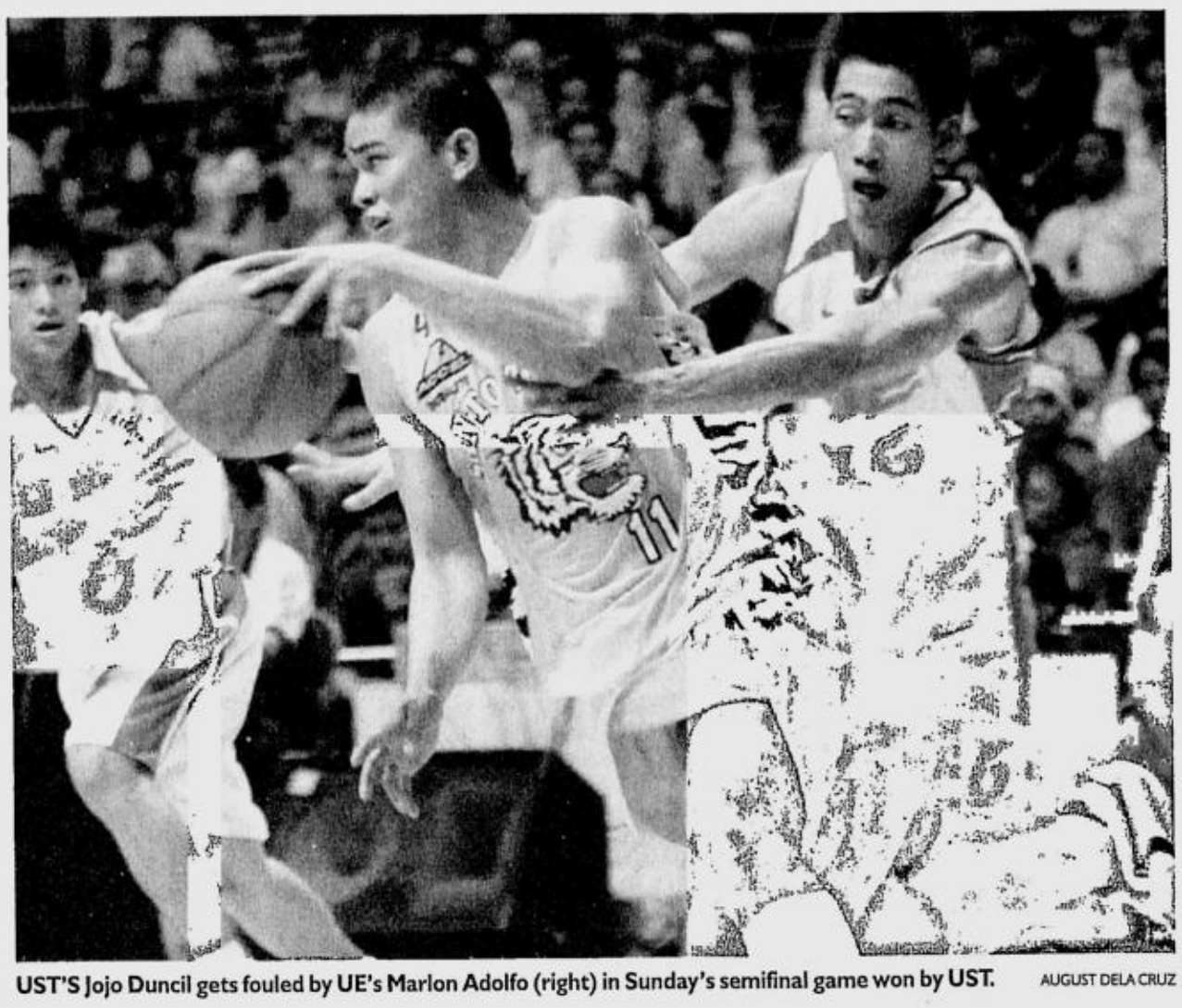
Lorenzo relayed that the athletes were locked separately in abandoned garages and ordered to strip and turn over their cash and valuables.

The group reported the incident to the Kuala Lumpur Tourist Police by midnight.

The delegation, scheduled to plane home the following morning, unfortunately failed to report the case to host Malaysian Cycling Federation, event organizer Asian Cycling Confederation and the Asean Cycling Association.

PhilCycling plans to seek the assistance of the Philippine Sports Commission in relaying the incident to the Philippine Embassy in Malaysia.

Davadilla, Quirimit, Barnachea and Obosa qualified for 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, this December after finishing sixth in the 2006 Asian Cycling Championships.



UST'S Jojo Duncil gets fouled by UE's Marlon Adolfo (right) in Sunday's semifinal game won by UST. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Gordon files resolution lauding Bata

SEN. RICHARD J. GORDON YESTERDAY lauded Efren "Bata" Reyes for again bringing honor to the Philippines when he topped the final leg of the 2006 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour held at Gran Melia Jakarta Hotel, Indonesia, over the weekend.

Gordon, a former tourism secretary, said Reyes' triumph once again boosted the country's image in the international community as a haven of sports champions in the world.

Earlier, Gordon introduced Senate Resolution No. 559 commending Reyes for "his skill and determination that led to his victory in the International Pool tour 2006 World Open 8-ball Championship."

In the resolution, Gordon recalled that Reyes "came from humble beginnings and his skill in billiards was honed while working for his uncle's pool house in Angeles City where he also lived, sleeping on top of the billiard tables."

Gordon noted that Reyes has won several other world's most prestigious pool tournaments, including the 2001 and 2002 World Pool Leagues and won a gold medal for snooker in the Southeast Asian Games of 1987, bringing fame and glory to the Philippines .

Reyes was also inducted to the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame on July 12, 2003, the first Filipino to be so honored.

Gordon said that while Reyes has been offered several times to endorse foreign cue sticks for significant amounts of money, he has consistently refused to do so because he only uses local cue sticks made in his province of Pampanga.

Mayol kayoes Japanese foe

SHOWING THAT HE IS STILL ONE OF THE world's hardest-punching miniflies, Filipino Rodel Mayol yesterday stopped Japanese Masatsugu Okada in the first round at the Pacifico Yokohama in Japan to keep himself in the hunt for another possible world title crack.

The WBC No. 3-ranked Mayol, who is managed by Japanese businessman Yasuo Matsuoka, knocked down Okada three times en route to a devastating knockout win at the 2:02 mark of the opening round. A thundering right straight finished off Okada.

This was Mayol's first fight since dropping a close decision to WBC minimumweight kingpin Eagle Kyowa on May 6.

The win improved Mayol's record to 22 wins, 1 loss with 17 knockouts.

In the undercard, Filipino Jeffrey Onate was knocked out by Japan's Satoru Hosono of the Ohashi Gym just 25 seconds gone in the first round. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Jarencio's Tigers defying tall odds

By Jasmine W. Payo

PERHAPS MORE THAN JUST GAME tactics, it's his gung-ho style of play that rubbed off on the Santo Tomas Tigers.

Rookie coach Pido Jarencio used to defy the odds first with the old Glowing Goldies and later with San Miguel and Ginebra as a spunky shooting guard in the PBA. He's at it again although this time, it's from the UST bench in the UAAP men's basketball tournament.

The overachieving Tigers have a shot at the Finals, a thought that occurred only recently to Jarencio.

"At the start of the season, we were not even ranked," said Jarencio. "But it's different when the players want to win."

Last Sunday, the Tigers forged a knockout match for the remaining championship slot against the favored University of the East Warriors.

GAMES THURSDAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
12 noon—UST vs FEU (Women-Finals)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs FEU (Jrs-Finals)
4 p.m.—UE vs UST (Srs-Final Four)

The Tigers' Final Four stint was a feat in itself as UST competed most of the season with a depleted lineup due to various illnesses and injuries.

"We just go for the win every game," said Jarencio. "Even if you make a lot of plans, but if the players don't have the desire, it won't mean anything."

Jarencio believes the Tigers are ready to face the Ateneo Blue Eagles, who advanced to the Finals right away after disposing of the Adamson Falcons in their semifinal match last Sunday.

"We already taught everything to the players, they know what we want," said Jarencio. "It just depends on the heart of the players if they want to win."

Meanwhile, it was Macky Escalona, not Chris Tiu, who committed the errant inbound pass for the Eagles with 9.9 seconds left against the Falcons. Ateneo won, 76-73.

In a related development, the Far Eastern Tamaraws' failure to defend their UAAP men's basketball title prompted a team overhaul.

The Tamaraws, the first defending champion to miss the Final Four, disbanded their current roster, but retained the coaching staff headed by Bert Flores.

According to team manager Anton Montinola, the Tamaraws are eyeing new recruits from the Team B roster and the graduating players from FEU's junior squad.

Alsado, Porras up in Shell chessfest

RODEL ALSADO AND FRANCISCO PORRAS disposed of their rivals to lead their respective divisions after four rounds of the Mindanao leg of the 2006 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships at SM Davao in Davao City over the weekend.

The ninth-ranked Alsado, playing out of Carmen National High School, downed Jay Himarancan, Bruce Duque, Dillon Intila and Jay Sombilon to tie Brene Parreño and Randolph Dalauta for the lead heading into the last three rounds of the Swiss system tournament in the juniors division.

Parreño, the 12th-seeded bet from University of Mindanao, trounced Chris Idul, Jeffrey Montebon, Rocky Nabieza and Chito Dimakiling, while the 15th-ranked Dalauta of Corpus Christi School trampled Kenneth Ihalas, Don Igbo, Kenneth Roda and Jay Bulicatin to zero in on the three berths staked for the national finals of this event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell. Third seed dropped to a tie for fourth with 3.5 points.

Collegiate Champion's League starts Oct. 1

CAN THE UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC Association of the Philippines (UAAP) keep its supremacy in the Collegiate Champion's League?

The answer will be known when 16 crack teams from different leagues in Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao dispute the title in this year's CCL starting Oct. 1.

The top four teams from the UAAP are expected to dominate again, but their counterparts from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) have gotten stronger and are more than capable of snatching the title away from their league.

Teams from the UAAP won the first three editions of the event with the University of the East Red Warriors claiming the title in the inaugural season and the Far Eastern U Tamaraws taking the next two.

Also invited are the champions from the National Athletic Association of State Colleges and Universities (Naascu), National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) and Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA).

There are two slots available for the teams from the Visayas and Mindanao.

Battling for the slots are the top four teams from Cebu (CSAFI) and the champions in Negros (Nopscea) and Davao (DCAA).

Completing the cast are the three wild card entries to be determined by the sports media representatives on the basis of previous and current competitive performance.

The leading wild card candidates are defending champion FEU and Colleges and Universities Sports Association (CUSA) de fending champion Philippine Maritime Institute.

Scholarship funding and sports equipment/facilities amounting to P850,000 are at stake in the two-week competition.

The champion school will receive P500,000 worth of scholarships and sports equipment, while the second, third and fourth placers will get P200,000, P100,000 and P50,000 worth of prizes, respectively.

WOMEN'S CAGING: China's Lei Ren drives past Cuba's Yamara Amargo during their Fiba Women's World Basketball match in Barueri, Brazil, on Sunday. AP

JUDOKAS: Georgia's Zara Kedelashvili (left) grapples with Russia's Mikhail Verkholantsev during their -66kg fight of the men's judo world team championships final, Sept. 17 in Paris. Georgia won the event ahead of Russia, France and Korea, respectively. AFP

PBL not shunning away from new cage group

PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL LEAGUE COMMISsioner Chino Trinidad yesterday clarified reports that the league is shunning away from the proposed Samahang Basketbol Pilipinas Inc.

"There were some conflicting reports the past few days, so I want to clear the air," said Trinidad. "We are not turning our back from the group. "We did not name our representative right away in respect to our incoming chairman."

After consultation with the board and incoming chair Gil Angeles of Toyota Otis, it was latter agreed that Trinidad will now represent the league in the new cage body.

The SBPI board, headed by business tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan, will be comprised of 12 men each coming from the Basketball Pilipinas and Basketball Association of the Philippines. Only the PBL was not nominated by the PB in its roster to the board during a meeting late Friday since the country's premier amateur basketball league has yet to name its representative.

"We have to go through the proper channel out of courtesy, I can't just go there without the knowledge of the board, especially our incoming chair," said Trinidad.

Initially, Trinidad proposed that Angeles should represent the league but the later politely declined the offer since he believed that the commissioner is the man cut out for the job.

"We need an individual like Chino to the board, he might be young but he's a dynamic leader," said Angeles. Trinidad has long been waging a war for total revamp in the structure of basketball in the country.

Angeles hosts Hold'Em poker

QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS IN THE MILlion-peso Hold'Em Philippine Championship resumes on Oct. 8 at the Casino Filipino Angeles.

The series will also be held at the Casino Filipino Tagaytay on Oct. 14, Nov. 4 and Nov. 25.

Winners in the satellite events will earn spots to the grand finals set Dec. 16-17 at the Casino Filipino Pavilion in Manila where P3 million in total prize fund will be at stake.

The champion will receive P1 million and the coveted champion's bracelet.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Poker Tour (PPT), headed by Rey Gamboa expressed full support to the campaign of Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) against illegal games.

The PPT had forged an agreement with Pagcor to conduct non-wager tournaments to promote poker as a competitive mind sport.

Visit www.PhilippinePokerTour.com or call Cindy at 817-9092 or 812-0153.

Condes, Jaro keep titles; Arum agent impressed

TAGUIG—A TRUSTED TALENT SCOUT and agent for Top Rank promoter Bob Arum, the Las Vegas-based Puerto Rican Dante Ortiz, plans to bring to the United States two or three boxers who saw action during last Sunday's "Bakbakan sa Bicutan" held at the Cantada Sports Center here.

Ortiz, accompanied by former WBA light welterweight champion Morris East, was at ringside as Philippine junior flyweight champ Sonny Boy Jaro and RP minimumweight titlist Florante Condes defended their titles in the main bouts of the card.

"I am planning to bring some of these boys to the United States for possible fight," Ortiz said.

Condes bucked an early scare to stop Cebu's Fabio Marfa in the sixth with a single shot to the mid-section while Jaro, defending his 108-lb title for the third time, escaped with a technical decision draw with talented challenger Along Denoy of the ALA Stable.

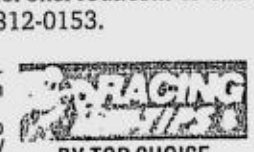
Denoy was outboxing the onrushing champion with a pricking jab and superior lateral skills when the fight was stopped following a clash of heads in the fifth round which produced a cut on the challenger's left eyelid and forehead.

After seven stitches on his left eyelid and three stitches on the forehead, Denoy went back to the venue and was cheered by ringside spectators who thought he had the fight in the bag.

The Puerto Rican agent was particularly impressed by the dynamite-fisted Condes, whom he described as a small version of the great Roberto Duran.

"We might build him up for a possible shot at WBO champ Ivan Calderon. Condes has amazing power," Ortiz said.

Bernabe Concepcion, nicknamed "The Real Deal," prevailed on a 96-94, 97-93, 99-91 unanimous verdict over the tough-as-nails Sonny Gonzales in another key bout. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*



BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Quartet/Tri)—River Bandit (1), Earth Angel (4), Brazen Truth (5), The Strategist (7)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Go Go Elgene (3), D'Ol Jade/Princess Ashley (5), Reptoid (7), Ask Alexi (4), Alfa Romeo (12)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Be Dazzling (1), Kalashnikov (8), Playing Cool (3), Magiliw (6)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Hoy Sobra Na (5), Federal Court (14), Extreme Illusion (4), Dona Gelay (7), Extreme Romance (6)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Raging River (4), El Cid (2), Star Colony (3), Leading Man (5)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Blondie Baj (1), Prince valiant (5), Desert Breeze (13), Andee's Whisper (8), Capricorn Aida (11)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Money Man (2), Bumpy Johnson (7), Raporter (11), Crystal City (12), Prime Enforcer (4)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Dondon's Eatery (4), Mesmerize (3), Il Amorosa (2), Revelation (7), Modern Classic (9), Magic Dancer (6)

Tyson tries to get back on track

TYSON Sy

BOGOR, INDONESIA—FILIPINO racing star Tyson Sy hopes to get a big part of the whopping 120 points up for grabs this week in his bid to close in on Asian Formula Three series leader Ali Jackson of Ireland.

To achieve this, Sy aims to finish ahead of Jackson in each of the six races at the Sentul International Circuit to set up a thrilling finish at the season finale in Batangas in November.

"I intend to finish each race in front of Jackson," said Sy, the lead driver of Speedtech Asia who is running third in the race for the overall title with 105 points, 22 behind Jackson of Aran Racing. "I'll try to get as much points as possible. *Malaki pa ang tsansa na makahabol.* I'm very confident."

Two races each will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The field will start practicing Tuesday, with the race for pole position set Wednesday. Log on to www.asianf3.net for updates.

The hectic grind will be a big challenge for drivers used to racing just two to three races on a weekend but it's just fine for Sy. He is convinced that barring mechanical problems, he can even wrest the lead and go into the Batangas races with more than an even chance to win.

However, the same cannot be said of Dado Pena, the other Filipino star in the field. With a mere 60 points after the first nine rounds, he is way behind in sixth but remained upbeat.

"I have to finish each race and see what happens. I need to secure as much points as possible," said Pena of Team Goddard.

Sy and the rest of the field, including lady drivers Gaby dela Merced and Michele Bumgarner, arrived here last Sunday in time to check their racing machines.

On Monday, temperature was around 75 degrees Fahrenheit and the forecast is for partly cloudy skies, practically the same conditions when Sy scored a golden double at the same track last year.

CHINA'S Liu Xiang shows top form in the 110 metres hurdles at the IAAF World Cup athletics tournament in Athens Sunday. REUTERS

Carrascal shocks Alabang, clinches inter-cities plum

DAVAO CITY—CARRASCAL (Surigao del Sur) posted convincing wins against Alabang (Muntinlupa "V") 2.5:1.5, 3:1, in the two-game finals to emerge champion in the 2006 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championships Sunday at the Atrium of Gaisano Mall here.

After winning Game 1, 2.5-1.5, FIDE Master Adrian Ros Pacis and Beng Largo scored crucial points while top board player NM Emmanuel Senador and Marlon Ricafort gained draws for a 3-1 victory that clinched the title for the unheralded Carrascal squad.

The victory was worth P100,000 for Carrascal in the event supported by NCFP president and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr., Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chair William "Butch" Ramirez Jr. and Gaisano Mall of Davao.

Senador, a PAF team mainstay, held National Open champion IM Darwin Laylo to a draw after 32 moves of a Reti Opening on board 1 and Navyman Ricafort settled for a truce with Noel Dela Cruz after 51 moves of a Sicilian Skirmish on board 3.

FM Pacis beat National Open runner-up IM Ronald Dableo after 33 moves of an English Opening on board 2 while Largo, a last-minute recruit, downed Rolenson Loyola after 35 moves of French Defense on board 4.

Pichay, co-organizer with Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno of the 2006 National Inter Provincial Chess Team Championships in Cagayan de Oro City this October, donated P100,000 to the organizing committee of the event.

Reigning titlist Tagaytay City, backed by NCFP secretary-general and Tagaytay City mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino Jr. finished third after beating PNP-Quezon City, 4-0, and 2.5-1.5.

Alabang (Muntinlupa V) picked up the P60,000 runner-up prize and Tagaytay City won P40,000. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

SPORTSWATCH

San Mig Coffee Senior Golf Series

THE 5TH LEG OF THE SAN MIG COFFEE SUGAR FREE SENIOR GOLF SERIES OF the Federation of Philippine Amateur Senior Golfers, Inc. will be staged at the Philippine Navy Golf Club on Wednesday. Some 150 players from 14 chapters are competing for individual and team honors in the 18-hole event hosted by PNGC Seniors headed by its president Jack Perez Sr. The field will be classified according to age: 55-59 years in Group A, 60-64 in Group B, 65-69 in Group C, 70-74 Group D and 75 and above Group E.

Calabarzon Chess Festival in Tanauan

THE ACTIVE CHESS CENTER OF ASIA ANNOUNCED THE HOLDING OF THE 2006 Calabarzon Chess Festival at First Asia Institute of Technology (FAITH) in Tanauan, Batangas, on Oct. 13-15. Tournament Director Ricky Navalta said the first day of the event is a team tournament among high schools in Calabarzon region while the second and third day event is open to all players, rated or unrated. The open tournament dubbed as the 2nd Tanauan Open Chess Tournament offers a total cash prize of P200,000 pesos with the champion pocketing P75,000. Also at stake are prizes to be given to category winners in Junior, Kiddie, Female, Senior, Executive, Youngest, U1800, unrated and top Calabarzon high school and elementary boys and girls. Players who will register before Oct. 7 will only pay P300 instead of the regular entry fee of P600. For inquiries, call ACCA/DIWA office at 893-8501 (Ricky Navalta or Gigi Flanel Masangkay).

Red Horse drag race Sept. 23

TOP CONTENDERS TRY TO BOLSTER THEIR TITLE BIDS AS THE SHOWDOWN of cars and speed comes to an exciting climax this weekend in the final leg of the 2006 Red Horse National Drag Racing Championship Series at the Drag Strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit. Though the coveted Drag Racing Driver of the Year is within reach, Dave Jota of Blance Racing is gearing up for a record-breaking feat with hopes of winding up his bid with a bang in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) and sponsored by Red Horse Beer, San Miguel Corporation and supported by Pilipinas Shell, Denso, Yokohama, Casino Filipino and Sparco. The existing record time of 11.092 seconds is still owned by Jota's closest rival Jonathan Tiu of Team Ere who's second overall with 30 points. Jota leads the series with 50 points following his runner-up finish in the fourth leg on Aug. 26. Registration is open. Contact BRC operations manager Rodini Rivera or Nelson Gayola at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241 for details.

Policarpio sweeps TRS-Ford races opener

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—JOWARD POLICARPIO pulled off a big surprise by sweeping the four races at the kickoff of the TRS-Ford Focus Cup Race Series yesterday at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

The organizing Tuason Racing School headed by former karting champ JP Tuason was very impressed with how the 17-year-old son of former ralley champion Boyet Policarpio bested his more experienced rivals.

Even though he's the youngest in the field, Joward showed the intensity and determination to rise above the challenge in this event sponsored by Ford Racing, Addict Mobile, eStandard Insurance Corp., Petron Ultron, Goodyear, Bosch, ROTA, Oakley, Trade Show, Red Horse Beer, H&R Springs, Starbright Body Kits, Manila Speedzone, Palmer-Asia Inc., Sikkens, Bilstein Shock Absorbers, K&N Filters, C! Magazine, Trapik.com and Maxim.

"I have so much respect for my reputable rivals with distinct racing experiences but a newcomer like me who's yet to make a name wanted this chance more than they do," said Policarpio, who got his ticket into the series by being the winner of the TRS-C! Top Driver Challenge. "And modesty aside, I guess I was more determined and showed more heart to deserve the win."

"Joward made us proud that we didn't make a mistake in giving him this chance," said Tuason.

The participants paraded the latest 2006 1.6 Ford Focus cars prepared with the same exact specs. But Joward's natural talent glittered from the start as he pulled away from veterans Toti Turalba, Matthew Edmunds and Philippine Star Motoring's Jeff Reyest and never looked back.

Earning 10 points for every win, Policarpio now holds a total of 40 points, 8 points up on Turalba who wound up runner-up in all four races.

JOWARD Policarpio (9) gets off to a quick start, leaving Toti Turalba (8) and the rest of the pack en route to a sweep of the four races in the kickoff of the TRS-Ford Focus Cup Series yesterday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol	Ultimate Guinness World Records		Ali		Big News	Fear Factor	Philippine Idol (11:45PM)
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Crazy For You		Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	Correspondents	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		House (Season II)		Worst Case Scenario		The World's Most Extreme Races		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Worlds Apart		Sports Disaster IV		CSI: NY (Season 2)		Numb3rs (Season 2)	
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel	Robotboy	Mirmo De Pon	Pokemon Johto Journey	Dice/ Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Tisoy				Batch '81				Magkapatid				Si Malakas, Si Maganda At Si Mahinhin				American Adobo	
Cinemax	What Ever Happened To Baby Jane?				Blind Side (4:45 PM)				The Kiss (6:20 PM)			Paycheck				Urban Legends: Bloody Mary (9:35 PM)			Private Parts (11:25 PM)
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		The Grid/ The Closer		E-Ring		Law & Order: Criminal Intent/ Oz	
Discovery Channel		Tribe Adi		Rides		Ultimate Discovery		Perfect Disaster		Wild Discovery		Hour Asia		Ultimate Discovery		Perfect Disaster		Blueprint For Disaster	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unbelievable Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Wicked Science Yr 2	Phil Of The Future	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Watersports Programming Hot Water		UEFA Champions League Magazine Show	Motorsport Asia	X Games 11 Classix - Moto X		Major League Baseball Saturday						Sportscenter Asia	Pool: Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		Pool: Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Insider Weekend	Project Runway 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The O.C.3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Skating With Celebrities		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Super Saints	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mirror Of The Soul	Lord, Have Mercy	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Good Code/ The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Divine Mercy	Octava Dies	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Panlabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Bahay Mo Ba 'To			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		Mcleod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Family Law		Judging Amy		Almost Salinas			
HBO	Now On The Big Screen In Sept	Groundhog Day			All The President's Men					Twelve Monkeys (6:55 PM)				Entourage 17: I Love You Too	Entourage 18: The Bat Mitzvah	When Trumpets Fade			Dennis The Menace
Hero TV	Tokyo Underground	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Sebis On The Go	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arms		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arms	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Experience		Heat		X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Bottomline		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Just For Laughs	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Emeril Live		Boy Meets Grill	E! News Weekend		Look For Less	Martha		Napa Style	Sheila Bridges Designer Living	Guess Who's Coming To Decorate	
MTV Philippines		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	Handpicked Protein Shake	MTV Hits					Get Spotted		TRL		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Arena	Sessions Protein Shake	MTV Hits	Jams
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYXellaneous	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Monkey Business	National Geographic Specials		Megastructures: Golden Gate Bridge		The Real Serengeti: Assault on the Megaherd		Top 5 - Beauty?		WOW! Wild Sex: Femmes Fatales		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Hollywood Science: Amazing Vehicles		Sport Talk: Evil Spirits	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas.			Dyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Siya	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo News Beat (Live)		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-sal Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan				OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Ang Mga Nagsi-sal Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubuyag		World Report	In Focus	EWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Bakit May Pag-ibig Pa				Ang Tipo Kong Babae				Fight Night 5				Muling Buksan Ang Puso				Pinoy Idols
Qtv	Always The Two Of Us	Shaman King	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene		Sorry I Love You		Na-Scam Ka Na Ba?		News On Q	Sarah's Muling Makapiling		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress	Project Runway		Australia's Next Top Model		Good Girls Don't	Sex & the City	Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Trax		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports		2006 FIBA World Champ Games 3rd Period				ATP China Open SF Finals				NFL Washington @ Dallas						Solar Sports Desk	60 Great Playoff Moments	Beach Volleyball FIVB Women's France	
Sports Plus			This Is The PGA Tour		Inside the PGA	World Game		Sylvania 300 Highlights		RM Drilling		Ultimate Fighting Chan Battle for the Gold				Borgata Poker Open			
Star Movies			When Zachary Beaver Came To Town (3:45 PM)			Bram Stoker's Dracula (5:10 PM)				Godsend (7:15 PM)				Gattaca			The Librarian: Quest For The Spear		
Star World	Miss World 2006	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	One Tree Hill		Desperate Housewives		Kevin Hill		Seinfeld	One Tree Hill
Studio 23		Yu-Gi-Oh				Batman Beyond	Monkey Typhoon	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	High School Reunion	Smallville (8:15 PM)		Gilmore Girls		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		MYXlog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

SPORTS

BRITAIN'S PAUL CASEY: An easy winner. AFP

Casey tops Match Play

VIRGINIA WATER, ENGLAND—PAUL Casey was close to being a benchwarmer in his Ryder Cup debut two years ago, playing only one team match before getting trounced by Tiger Woods in singles.

The Englishman will bring stronger credentials to the Ryder Cup on Friday after the week he had in the World Match Play Championship at Wentworth.

Casey steamrolled through two major champions, Retief Goosen and Mike Weir, then showed no mercy to Ryder Cup teammate Colin Montgomerie, an eight-time winner of Europe's Order of Merit.

The final match on Sunday against former U.S. PGA champion Shaun Micheel turned out to be the easiest of all.

Casey won nine of the last 13 holes to turn a tight match into the biggest rout ever in the final, a 10-and-8 victory that came with a bundle of bonuses.

He won the richest prize in golf at 1 million pounds (US$1.88 million, euro1.5 million), which put him atop the Order of Merit on the European Tour. It was his third victory of the European Tour season, and by far the biggest win of his career.

And it sure put Casey in good spirits heading over to Ireland for the Ryder Cup.

All that mattered to Casey on Sunday was putting his name on a trophy alongside some of the biggest stars in golf, from Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus, to Nick Faldo and Seve Ballesteros. He became only the fifth player without a major to win in the 43-year history of the Match Play. "It's just wonderful to put my name down in history, put my name on the roll of honor," Casey said. *AP*

AERIAL CLASH. Porto's Bruno Alves (top) and Naval's Nei jump for the ball during their Portuguese Premier League soccer match. REUTERS

Curtis snares Lumber title

FARMINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA—BEN CURtis, who won the 2003 British Open then took nearly three years to win another title, captured his second US PGA event in three months here Sunday, winning the 84 Lumber Classic.

The 29-year-old American made a tough par save at 14 and birdied 15 from six feet to grab a three-stroke lead, then dropped a 40-foot birdie putt at the par-5 16th on his way to a final-round two-under par 70.

Curtis finished on 14-under par 274, two strokes ahead of compatriot Charles Howell at the 4.6 million-dollar event. American Brett Quigley was third on 277.

Curtis, whoy followed his stunning major victory with another crown in June at suburban Washington, took the $828,000 top prize. *AFP*

Asiad torch relay Oct. 19

A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL FROM QATAR will be the guest of honor and main bearer when the 15th Asian Games Torch Relay is set off on Oct. 19 at the Rizal Park.

The torch will be lit onstage at 8 a.m. on the grassy piece of land in front of the Rizal Monument and will traverse six Metro Manila cities before winding back to its point of origin.

It will pass through Manila, Quezon City, San Juan, Parañaque, Pasay and Makati, returning at 5 p.m. to a 30-minute cultural presentation to be staged by performers from Qatar.

"Only Asian cities that had hosted the Games previously will be visited by the Asiad torch," said Mario Tanchanco, the deputy chef de mission of Team Philippines. PSC head William Ramirez, the chef de mission, is the torch relay chair.

5 US varsity cagers shot

PITTSBURGH — POLICE SEARCHED for a man who shot five Duquesne University basketball players in campus early Sunday after a dance at the student union, leaving at least one of them in critical condition.

Two players were walking near a dormitory and encountered a man who apparently had been disruptive at the dance, authorities said. The players tried to calm the man and walked away but were shot. Players who rushed to their aid were also shot.

The gunman and a group of people with him were not students, a university official said.

In critical condition was forward Sam Ashaolu of Toronto. In serious condition was Stuard Baldonado. Also hospitalized was Kojo Mensah. Treated and released were Shawn James, the leading shot blocker in the US last season at Northeastern U before transferring to Duquesne; and Aaron Jackson. *AP*

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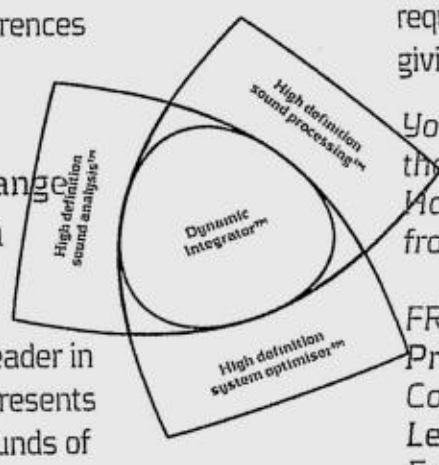

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E-mail us at: lacl@ledesma.com.ph
Website: www.ledesma.com.ph

BUSINESS

Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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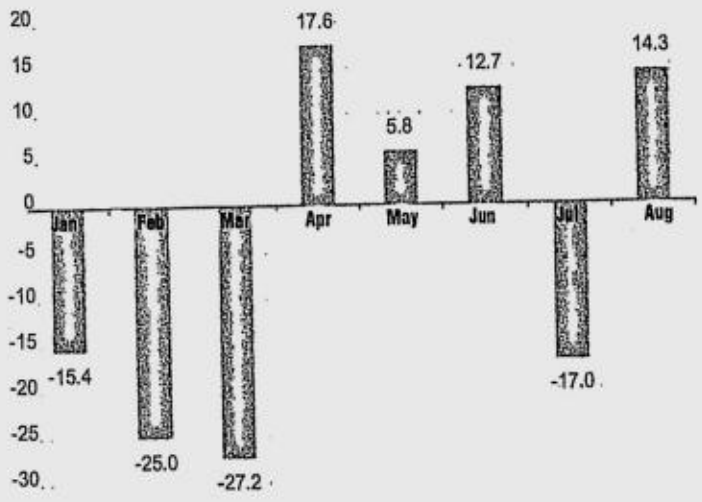
Gov't posted ₱14.3-B surplus in August

BUDGET DEFICIT AND SURPLUS
January to August 2006, in billion pesos



8-month budget deficit at 27% of 2006 ceiling

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT POSTED A BUDGET SURPLUS OF P14.3 billion in August, bolstering hopes that the deficit for the full year would be much lower than the P125-billion ceiling set by fiscal authorities.

The government earlier posted one-month surpluses in April, May and June.

The Department of Finance yesterday reported that government revenues in August totaled P97.5 billion while expenditures amounted to only P83.2 billion.

The surplus in August brought the government's budget position in the first eight months of the year to a deficit of P34.2 billion, or 27 percent of the P125-billion deficit ceiling.

"The strong fiscal performance may be at-

GOV'T/ B2

8-month BOP ends in $2.53-B surplus

THE PHILIPPINES' BALANCE OF PAYments (BOP) ended in a surplus of $2.53 billion in the first eight months of the year as strong exports and remittances from abroad boosted foreign exchange inflows.

Documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the BOP surplus as of end-August was 17-percent higher than the previous month's $2.17 billion and 10.5-percent better than the $2.29 billion a year ago.

The BOP is a record of a country's transactions with the rest of the world and is one of the indicators used to measure its vulnerability to external shocks.

A healthy BOP position helps improve a country's ability to protect its local currency from the depreciating effects of speculation. A BOP surplus likewise keeps the central bank away from the need to draw from the country's dollar reserves just to meet the day-to-day foreign-denominated expenditure requirements.

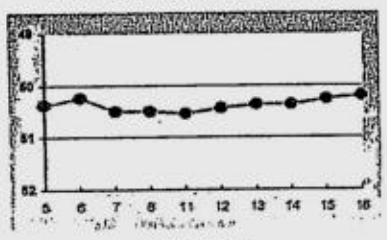
"The BOP surplus has increased further in the first eight months following better-than-projected OFW (overseas Filipino workers) remittances and exports, as well as higher FDI (foreign direct investments) and continued portfolio inflows," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

The National Statistics Office earlier reported that earnings from exports of goods hit $26.69 billion in the January-to-July period, or 16.2-percent higher year on year and better than the gov-

8-MONTH/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER

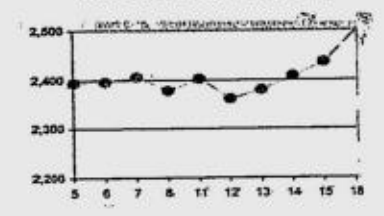
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.20 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 18, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

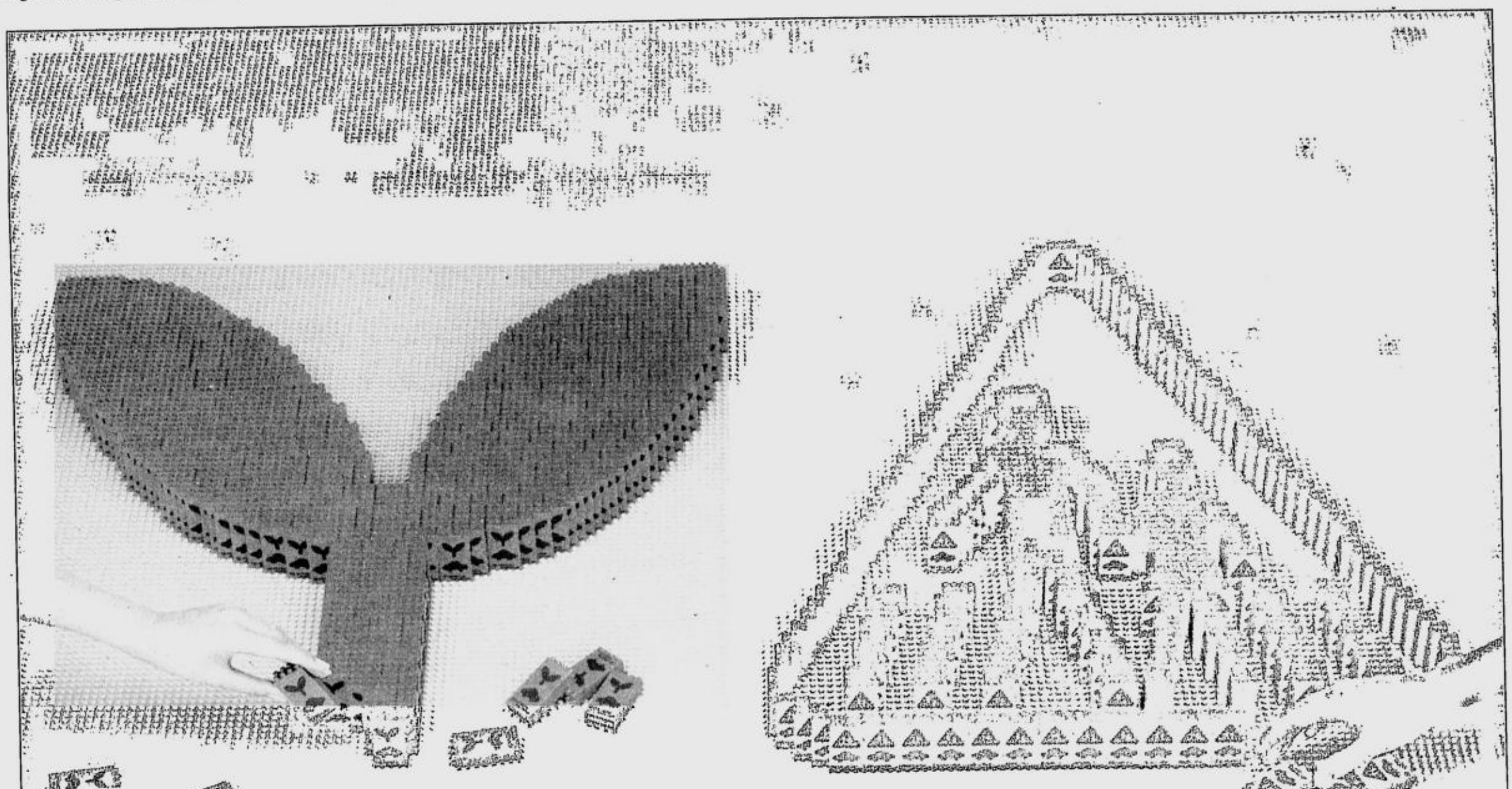


(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks hit 18-week high

SHARE PRICES JUMPED 2.75 PERCENT yesterday, taking the market to an 18-week high as investors cheered news of an August

STOCKS/ B2



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SEC questions CAP assumptions in revised rehab proposal

Some trust fund assets may be overvalued

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISsion (SEC) has expressed doubts over pre-need firm College Assurance Plan's claim that it could raise P10.3 billion from the disposal of assets that were listed in its revised rehabilitation proposal.

In its comments to the proposal earlier submitted by CAP to the court, the SEC said the pre-need company's projections in relation to the planned sale trust assets—such as stocks, bonds and property—should be scrutinized to determine whether the assumptions in the revised rehabilitation plan were realistic.

The SEC said it should be studied if "indeed the stated assets can be disposed of at the prices assumed by the company."

It said CAP seemed to have bloated the valuation for 17 pieces of property by about P1.5 billion.

"It is noted that CAP unreasonably overvalued its projections for certain assets, as shown in one of the annexes in the revised plan," it added.

The SEC noted the huge gap between the prices of certain pieces of property booked in CAP's trust fund in its rehabilitation proposal and the appraised values or fair market prices as determined by Cuervo Appraisers in 2004.

For example, the appraised value of a 2,483-square-meter property in Osmeña Boulevard in Cebu City (including improvements) was P102.5 million but CAP's expected inflow from this asset's sale was P229 million.

The SEC said that in case the revised rehabilitation proposal was approved, the sale of the trust fund assets should be strictly monitored to ensure that the proceeds would go to the trust fund, not to the company.

"All the assets of CAP at present , though depleted and insufficient, should be assets of the trust fund and the present stockholders should find ways to make up for the insufficiency," the SEC said.

The SEC said that a check with the Land Registration Authority showed that CAP's existing inventory of 24 developed lots and condominium units were not in the name of the trust fund or the trustee bank but were still in the name of the pre-need firm. These include 13 condominium units in Pasig City and 11 parcels of land in Aklan, Tagbiliran, Makati , Pampanga , General Santos City and Davao del Sur.

On CAP's MRT bonds, the SEC noted a huge decline in the value of the said bonds, from P3.1 billion in 2003 to P1.6 billion as of June 30 this year. With CAP's plan to sell the bonds at 60 percent of face value, the company could only raise P932 million.

The SEC further questioned CAP's ability to generate P324 million in 2006 from the sale of shares of affiliates and subsidiaries , such as CAP Life Insurance Corp. and Fil-Estate Land, when the value of these shares reflected in the trust fund statement was only P119 million.

The agency noted that based on CAP's unaudited financial statement ending December 2005, the booked investments in shares of stock were placed at only P10,000. This was a sharp decline from the number booked in 2003 at P279 million, representing shares of stock in CAP Realty, CAP Health Maintenance Organization, Community All Transport Corp., CAP General Insurance, CAP Technology, Fil Estate Land and Camp John Hay Golf Club.

Phisix breaks 2,500

I HAVE NOT BEEN FEELING VERY WELL these past few days. On Friday morning, I woke up to find the room revolving at incredible speed. This is quite unnerving so I closed my eyes for several minutes until the spinning motion slowed down. For the rest of the day, I could not walk in a straight line and held on to chairs, tables, pretty girls—whatever I could lay my hands on.

On Saturday, I went to the hospital where I spent the day submitting to numerous tests. Why this should include a vasectomy I cannot imagine but I opted out of that one. They looked at my ears and could see daylight the other side, so that was not the problem. They tested my eyes and asked me to read the bottom line. Not only could I read it but I told the ophthalmologist that I knew the guy. He is Polish and you know how weird their names are.

They took an echocardiogram but that showed no abnormality and all my blood tests came back perfect. The only disturbing result was that my sperm count was down 2 percent due to the cell phone in my trouser pocket. In the end, the doctor diagnosed it as testicular vertigo, but I think he meant vestibular. Apparently, it attacks old people without cause but why me? I am only just reaching middle age. Actually, I am in that awkward age—too old for girls, too young to retire. Eventually, the doctor said I was unbalanced (I knew that already) and he blamed it on the ginseng, which is an aphrodizzyac.

During the following night, I had a mild asthma attack but I said, "Let us spray." And it went away after 5 minutes.

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The news from the United States was good and all 3 indices rose to within 8 percent of their all-time highs. The consumer price index was up only 0.2 percent, considered benign, and the core inflation rate was also 0.2 percent. Given this data, I do not see Bernanke raising rates when the Fed meets on Sept. 20. He will wait for another two to three months' figures before deciding on whether he needs to raise rates again. I still rate his chances of doing so at 50 percent.

There is no doubt that the growth of the US economy will slow to about 2.8 percent this quarter and maybe 2.6 percent in the last quarter but I do not foresee a recession next year even if it drops to 2 percent. That is still above the 1.8 percent predicted by the IMF for Europe. Some analysts are predicting zero growth for next year but if they are right, why are the indices close to all-time highs? They should be heading downwards. Something will have to be done about the yuan. The United States had a record monthly trade deficit of $68 billion and China has a record surplus. But the Chinese don't yuan to know.

I take a crude interest in oil, which has fallen 15 percent in recent months to $63.20 a barrel. All commodities appear to follow the oil price, so gold, copper, nickel and aluminum have suffered dramatic falls. This has been reflected in the share prices of resources stocks like BHP. If you want to trade these, you have to be on your mettle. Even ethanol has slumped and sugar has been caned.

Phil has gone ex the B shares and is now simply Philex.

The stock I was going to write up in depth was URC but I am having the same problem as I had with MEG. When MEG increased its liquidity by issuing a large number of additional shares 10 percent below the prevailing market price, they were snapped up. Most of the overseas buyers were simply after quick profits, so they just kept selling, day after day, week after week and the price stayed a couple of fluctuations above the issue price of P1.38. Eventually, it did move to P1.88.

I knew I had a winner because MEG is the leading provider of office space for call centers and business outsourcing. It is still the leader and its latest 10-story project is already 95 percent leased but its inability to move up discouraged me. So my favorite industrial equity got put on the back burner except for my subscribers who bought at P1.40.

The same happened to URC, which issued a large number of shares at P18. Initially, it did go up but then the buyers started selling in preparation for RLC, which is having a roadshow in Hong Kong and Singapore and will be offering 811 million shares at P11.50-P12. So URC fell back to the issue price and there it remains while UBS unloads millions of shares every day. This is understandable because UBS is the sole underwriter of the overseas portion of RLC, which represents 90 percent of the issue.

URC is a leading manufacturer of food products in the Philippines and its core business is growing by more than 20 percent a year. Its latest addition, C2 green tea, has been a huge success and is now being exported. Unfortunately, second quarter profits were affected by depreciation of non-core assets but this should not recur in the third quarter. All foreign brokers are covering the stock and have 1-year price targets ranging from P22 to P30. Eventually, UBS will run out of shares and the price should then rise because URC is selling on a P/E of only 11 whereas the average P/E of the sector is 16. So, if you are patient and in good health, you should see a decent return on your investment by next year. Even the lowest target projection would give you a return of 22 percent. Robina has set up an agricultural division, which is promoting young chicks. This used to be one of my main interests before I got married.

RLC is likely to suffer the same fate. After the issue is completed, there will be many sellers, overseas and local, trying to snatch a quick profit so the shares are likely to stay close to the issue price for quite some time. A similar fate probably awaits MBT, which is also planning to sell a large number of shares to improve its capital adequacy ratio and boost its lending capacity. For guidance on these shares, please consult your own broker; if you are trading online, please consult the computer.

GEI has changed its name to Geo Grace Resources Phils, a mining and exploration company. Harmony Gold, the fifth largest producer in the world, is considering bidding a substantial sum for the mine at Diwalwal which covers 5,000 hectares. The mine could contain as much as $18 billion worth of gold. Exploration companies will not be deterred by the fall in metal prices as they take a very long-term view. Gold stocks have been very strong today although the gold price has barely improved.

The price of TEL was set alight by an announcement it would go into satellite TV next year.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

Retirement industry gets support from Philexim

FIRMS INVOLVED IN THE RETIREment industry on Monday said support from Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency would help in the development of the sector into a $3.5-billion-a-year industry within the next five years.

Ernesto M. Ordoñez, president of the Philippine Retirement Inc., said the group welcomed Philexim's support and commitment to help the industry achieve its goal of bringing in 837,000 retirees from around the world within the next decade.

Ordoñez said the estimate on retiree arrivals was still conservative at less than a percent of the 869 million senior citizens worldwide.

"One of our main objectives is to generate four million direct and indirect jobs considering that every retiree accounts for four jobs across a broad range of service providers," he said.

He said efforts targeted at foreign retirees were timed with the number of senior people in developed countries getting bigger compared to that of younger people who pay for social services.

"Pension payments are declining in real and nominal terms while services are going down," Ordoñez said. "We are expecting a tsunami of retirees going to countries with lower cost of living like the Philippines." *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Gov't posted P14.3-B surplus...

From page B1

tributed to the significant increase in revenue collections vis-a-vis the moderate growth in spending," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in teleconference with reporters in Manila. Teves and other local economic officials are in Singapore for the joint International Monetary Fund-World Bank annual meetings.

The finance chief said the government would work on sustaining the gains on the fiscal front to support higher spending for social services and infrastructure.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the relatively low deficit in the first eight months of the year gave the government leeway to spend more in the remaining months of the year to spur economic activity.

Spending has so far been tight due to the failure of Congress to pass the proposed P1.053-trillion budget for this year, allowing the government to operate using the reenacted budget for 2005 of only P942 billion. The fiscal gains this year are largely because of the reenacted budget that forced tight spending.

Of the total revenues collected in August, the Bureau of Internal Revenue contributed P70.7 billion, surpassing its collection target of P68.8 billion for the month.

Despite the BIR's overperformance in August, the revenue agency is still hard-pressed to improve its tax collection efficiency to meet the full-year tax collection target of P675.4 billion.

In the January-to-August period, the BIR collected P438 billion in taxes, or P6.1 billion short of the P444.1-billion target.

The Bureau of Customs, the second-biggest revenue earner following the BIR, turned in P18.2 billion in August, or 6-percent higher than its P17.1-billion collection target.

The BOC is in a much comfortable position than the BIR in terms of meeting its P197-billion target for the whole year as it has collected P129.4 billion in duties and import taxes in the first eight months of the year, or P7.3-billion higher than the P122.08-billion target for the period.

The Bureau of the Treasury, which collects dividends from state-owned firms and invests in foreign-denominated securities like US treasury bills, contributed P5 billion in August compared with its P4.4-billion target for the month.

8-month BOP...

From page B1

ernment's full-year growth target of 10 percent.

Remittances from OFWs coursed through banks, the BSP earlier reported, hit $7 billion in the first seven months of the year, growing by 15.8 percent from a year ago.

The BSP said the double-digit growth in OFW remittances was attributed to the increasing demand for Filipino workers and easier access to banks.

The BSP also reported earlier that foreign portfolio investments registered with the monetary authority stood at a net inflow of $131.5 million, or 12-percent higher than the $117.1 million in the previous month.

The central bank said the increase in net inflows of foreign portfolio investments was attributed to the improving investor sentiment partly because of the decelerating inflation and higher corporate earnings. *Michelle V. Remo*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 18, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	38	38.5	38	38	145,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	57	55.5	57	938,100
China Banking Corp.	695	695	695	695	200
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.41	2,520,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	76	77.5	76	77.5	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	40	39	40	418,500
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33.5	33.5	880,000
Phil. Savings Bank	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	2,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17	17.5	17	17.5	7,100
Security Bank Corp.	51	52.5	50.5	52.5	903,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	44.5	44.5	44.5	44.5	565,300
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.8	37,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30	30.5	29	30.5	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1590	1590	1590	1590	570
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1980	1980	1980	1980	170
Ivantage Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.4	1,503,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	48	49	48	49	363,800
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	48	48.5	48	48.5	1,055,700
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.75	185,100
Manila Electric Co. B	29	30.5	29	30	1,976,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.2	9.4	9.1	9.2	6,591,000
Petron Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	6,094,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	50,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	282,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CADP Group Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.75	22.75	39,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33	34.5	33	34	391,500
RFM Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	204,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	113,100
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	72	70.5	72	175,500
Universal Robina Corp	18	18.25	18	18.25	1,169,400
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	170,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.62	1.68	1.62	1.68	1,342,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.9	1,425,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4	6	4	6	409,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	2,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.7	3.75	3.5	3.5	2,217,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.36	0.44	0.36	0.44	100,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	50,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.51	0.51	130,560,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.13	0.155	0.13	0.15	32,780,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	10,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	30,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	457.5	467.5	457.5	465	133,940
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	140,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	5	136,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.029	0.027	0.029	3,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.96	256,000
APC Group Inc.	0.235	0.25	0.235	0.24	2,560,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	32,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.95	990,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.3	3.3	236,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.34	1.38	1.32	1.36	61,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.28	1.34	1.26	1.32	32,417,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.8	3.65	3.8	461,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.25	3.3	1,220,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	2,257,000
Medco Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.4	1.52	1.38	1.44	13,955,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	9,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,380,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	910,000
Singphil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,300,000
SM Investments Corp.	229	231	227	230	1,222,640
South China Resources Inc.	0.9	0.95	0.9	0.9	130,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.26	152,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.115	0.125	0.115	0.12	17,350,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14	14.25	14	14.25	9,674,700
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1,650,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	920,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.75	2.75	2,267,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,700,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.51	4,820,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.06	0.065	0.06	0.0625	6,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	11,471,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	50,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	30,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,470,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.84	57,440,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.65	3.8	3.65	3.8	425,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.145	0.155	0.145	0.155	560,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13.25	12.75	13	3,867,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.39	0.42	0.39	0.42	3,380,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.2	8	8.2	4,507,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	120,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	3,200,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16	16.5	16	16.5	58,800
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1	1	1	1	40,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	13,005,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1035	1045	1030	1045	32,140
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.5	4.65	4.45	4.6	13,605,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2130	2225	2130	2225	532,620
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	150,000
Ionics Inc.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	66,000
IPVG Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	675,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	5,400,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	126,000
Philweb Corp	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	42,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.25	3.35	3.2	3.3	541,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	60,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	16	16.25	15.75	16.25	264,600
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	50,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.94	2.02	1.94	2.02	1,240,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	133,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.7	7,000
iPeople Inc.	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.95	402,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.08	2.14	2.08	2.12	364,000
Paxys Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	123,200
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	50,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.35	4.65	4.35	4.65	1,019,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.4	4.65	4.35	4.65	840,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	958,500,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.2	8.5	8.2	8.5	806,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.9	9.8	8.9	9.8	89,000
Benguet Corp. B	25	25	25	25	3,600
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.235	16,890,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.245	0.26	0.24	0.25	4,720,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.022	1,106,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.026	0.023	0.025	555,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	56,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.65	3.85	3.6	3.85	14,736,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	21	21	20.75	21	92,400
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.47	0.52	0.47	0.52	230,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	350,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	44,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.02	1.08	1.02	1.06	1,420,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.02	1.1	1.02	1.1	505,000
PNOC Exploration Corp.-B	12	12	12	12	1,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.8	10.25	9.7	10	165,000
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	104	104	104	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	70,000

Stocks hit 18-week high

From page B1

budget surplus and chased dominant telecom Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., dealers said.

They said news of a continued improvement in the government's finances bolstered sentiment and hopes the country's sovereign ratings could be raised, helping ease loan conditions overall.

The composite index added 66.94 points to close at the day's high of 2,501.80. It hit a low of 2,434.33. *AFP*

CURRENCIES

September 18, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.789453	1.000000	50.2690
Japan	Yen	0.006719	0.008511	0.4278
United Kingdom	Pound	1.484645	1.880600	94.5359
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101441	0.128495	6.4593
Switzerland	Franc	0.628746	0.796432	40.0358
Canada	Dollar	0.705435	0.893575	44.9191
Singapore	Dollar	0.499022	0.632111	31.7756
Australia	Dollar	0.593128	0.751315	37.7679
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.094151	2.652661	133.3466
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210504	0.266645	13.4040
Brunei	Dollar	0.497450	0.630120	31.6755
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021199	0.026853	1.3499
UAE	Dirham	0.214946	0.272272	13.6868
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.266700	63.6757
Denmark	Kroner	0.134037	0.169785	8.5349
India	Rupee	0.017181	0.021763	1.0940
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215169	0.272554	13.7010
Mexico	New Peso	0.072208	0.091466	4.5979
New Zealand	Dollar	0.522540	0.661901	33.2731
South Africa	Rand	0.106827	0.135318	6.8023
Korea	Won	0.000826	0.001046	0.0526
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023973	0.030367	1.5265

Praying it safe

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN THE MEDIA UPROAR AGAINST companies dealing with pre-need education plans, the Securities and Exchange Commission has no choice but to take the side of the public.

But of course, the SEC must play it safe!

A good example is the case of Pacific Plans, which is the first and only pre-need education plan company ever to admit that it has a serious liquidity problem.

The company is seeking court approval for its rehabilitation plan. The company said it needs 10 years to earn enough from its investments, plus the P250 million from Alfonso Yuchengo, to cover its obligation to some 34,000 customers—and only partially.

Those 34,000 customers are the holders of the legendary "open-ended" education plans, as against the "fixed value" plans.

The open-ended plans, as the term indicates, are the "come-what-may" plans.

*For "open-ended" plans, pre-need companies promise, in effect, that they will take care of the tuition of the kids of whoever will be holding the plan, say, 10 or 20 years from now, even if, by then, the tuition will be somewhere in the vicinity of another universe.

Of course anybody who holds an "open-ended" plan of Pacific Plans, must be against the firm's rehab plan. It removes the, well, "open-endedness" of their education plans. The plan holders naturally want the company to stick to its open-ended commitment.

And so, the SEC told the court that, yes, indeed, Pacific Plans must pay for the plans right now, this very moment, and it must pay for the entire tuition of the plan holders' kids, wherever in the stratosphere the tuition may reach.

* * *

YOU know what? The SEC cannot ever go public with its approval of any rehab plan of any pre-need company because the SEC itself is the pre-need industry's one and only regulator.

For the SEC, going with the Pacific Plan rehab is a public admission that it failed the public in its job as regulator.

How come the company is having problems? How come the SEC did not warn the public about its financial trouble, in the first place? Where in the SEC offices were the SEC officials sleeping?

Thus, the SEC cannot side with the company it is supposed to regulate. In the Pacific Plan case, the SEC must tell the court that it does not agree with the rehab plan.

Under the law, according to the SEC, Pacific Plans has an "open-ended" obligation. Its obligation, therefore, must stay that way, meaning, "no end."

Everybody wants Pacific Plans, and the entire pre-need education sector, to keep their promise under the "open-ended" plans.

I also want them to pay up. Every parent wants them to pay up. I am sure that even the owners and executives of the pre-need companies themselves want their companies to pay up.

The only problem is, well, where the hell will they get the money? It is a LIQUIDITY problem, right? That means the pre-need companies do not have the money now, right? Anybody home?

I mean, sure, in taking the NO MERCY position, the SEC may be playing it safe with the public, but it is not exactly a realistic position.

To follow the SEC's wish, the preneed companies will need lots and lots of prayer, plus a huge miracle, to raise the money for all the open-ended education plans right now. What's that, praying it safe?

Either a miracle happens, or this cute administration steps into the crisis and provides a liquidity mechanism for the pre-need firms. This, by the way, has been done before. It is not as if this cute administration is reinventing the wheel.

* * *

ANYWAY, "open-ended" plans have become a monster. Even the SEC has admitted as much when it banned that type of pre-need education plan in 2002.

If the "open-ended" plan was such a good thing, why would the SEC prevent pre-need companies from marketing such a hot-selling item?

I think the SEC itself recognized, although belatedly, that the "open-ended" plans were killing the pre-need companies.

Thus, in 2002, the SEC figured out—correctly—that the "open-ended" plans were not realistic at all. That's why the SEC banned them at that time.

What, I wonder, makes the SEC think that the same "open-ended" plans which it considered to be unrealistic only three years ago, are suddenly so realistic today that it has even told the court to require Pacific Plans to cover all those policies?

The SEC is playing it safe, what else? The parents are angry, and understandably so. And the SEC cannot go out and explain to them a reality that parents do not want to hear.

* * *

BELIEVE me, today, employees of private schools have a little sideline in brokering "open-ended" plans in the secondary market.

Not everybody who bought "open-ended" plans years ago, are actually using them. The holders also sell the plans to others. Because the tuition has gone up to another galaxy in the past 13 years, "open-ended" plans are selling today at a handsome profit.

On the average, based on the prevailing tuition, an "open-ended" plan enjoys an ROI of about 1,600 percent.

If the user goes to some exclusive school—with its tuition having gone up to somewhere near Heaven's door, the ROI can even reach 2,200 percent.

Thus, in the actual real-life case of Pacific Plans, a plan holder bought an "open-ended" plan for only P13,800 some 15 years ago. By the time Pacific Plans completed paying "open-endedly" for the plan, it would have spent a total of P310,000.

Nobody, no matter how good they are in financial investments, can earn that much. Not in this country! Not if you are doing legitimate business! Jueteng and drugs, sure! But not legitimate business!

Believe me, even employees of private schools cannot make that much money as brokers in the thriving secondary market for "open-ended" plans.

* * *

WHAT is this I hear that AMA, a reputable chain of computer schools, is facing a multimillion-peso damage suit from the owner of the building of one of its ... well, "branches?"

From what I heard, the computer school AMA tried to ride on the "nursing course" bandwagon, by opening its own nursing schools. It even rented a building in Makati for its nursing program.

Unfortunately, the Commission on Higher Education, or CHEd, ordered the closure of the AMA nursing school. According to CHEd, the AMA nursing school failed to comply with CHEd requirements. It had to be closed down.

With the CHEd closure order, AMA abandoned the building for its nursing school. The building owner is claiming that AMA had a long-term lease contract until 2014.

What's more, word has gone around that AMA left the building in a sad state—with rooms defaced and facilities broken. AMA school officials supposedly also left the keys with the barangay officials—not with the building owner. Tsk, tsk, tsk!

* * *

STILL on schools, with the reopening of classes barely a month from today, the Department of Education should be busy sprucing up the facilities of public schools.

Well, the DepEd is busy, why not? But, unfortunately, it does not have the money for repairs and paint jobs. So what does the DepEd do? Did it cry about not getting enough funding from the huge P900-billion national budget?

DepEd undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz had a bright idea. He organized a *bayanihan* activity among parents and teachers to spruce up the schools in their localities.

It is called the "*brigada eskuwela*."

Under the program, anybody can volunteer to help in minor repairs and beautification of public schools in any barangay in the country.

Luz said that three years ago, when the program started, the DepEd computed the manhours and materials that were donated by the community to the public schools to be worth P400 million.

The following year, in 2004, the equivalent amount went up to P700 million.

The department is targeting an amount of P1 billion this year.

Wow! If the trend continues for another 20 years, I suppose the DepEd can raise enough contributions to build more classrooms, bayanihan style, and air-conditioned, at that.

It is not too late to volunteer. You have until the school opening.

WB urged to go easy on G24

By Doris C. Dumlao

SINGAPORE—THE GROUP OF 24 DEVELOPing countries yesterday called on the World Bank to make it less costly for emerging nations to tap development loans from the multilateral lender.

"Greater use of country systems should be promoted given its importance in reducing the nonfinancial cost of doing business with the bank, and in strengthening the countries' institutional capacities," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a speech before the joint IMF-World Bank development committee.

The Philippines this year heads the G24, or the Intergovernmental Group of 24 on International Monetary Affairs and Development.

"It is important to recall that the high costs of doing business with the bank has contributed to large and growing negative net transfers from the bank to middle-income countries," Teves said.

Net transfer refers to the official development assistance fund after the loan principal and interest payments have been deducted.

Teves said that the World Bank must continue with its efforts for developing countries, including the Philippines, where 70 percent of the world's poor are found.

"Continued close engagement with these countries is central to the bank's development mandate, its financial health and its role as a knowledge bank," he said. "To be successful, any strategy for middle-income countries should be flexible, multi-pronged, and comprehensive, in order to be responsive to differentiated and evolving demands [from] these countries."

The G24 is now concerned over the high cost of doing business with the lending institutions, resulting in larger negative net transfers which the emerging nations receive from the World Bank.

The G24 also called on the World Bank to increase lending to low-income countries.

"[Official development assistance] to low-income countries has not increased, despite the renewed pledge by the international community at the UN Millennium Review Summit in 2005 to help accelerate the progress toward achieving the millennium development goals," Teves said.

RPN-9 taxes may be reduced

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is willing to approve the restructuring of a state-owned television station's back taxes just to move plans for its privatization forward.

Finance Undersecretary John Philip Sevilla said that the DOF supports the plan to reduce the tax liabilities of RPN-9 so that the television station may be able to attract buyers.

But the finance official said that the exact amount of tax cut is yet to be agreed upon.

The final decision to cut RPN-9's back taxes will come from the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Based on the government's estimates, RPN 9 owes the BIR some P110 million in unpaid withholding taxes, and P140 million in unpaid franchise taxes. Officials have not disclosed the amount of penalties and surcharges, but said these were much bigger than the principal.

RPN 9 is on top of the government's privatization list.

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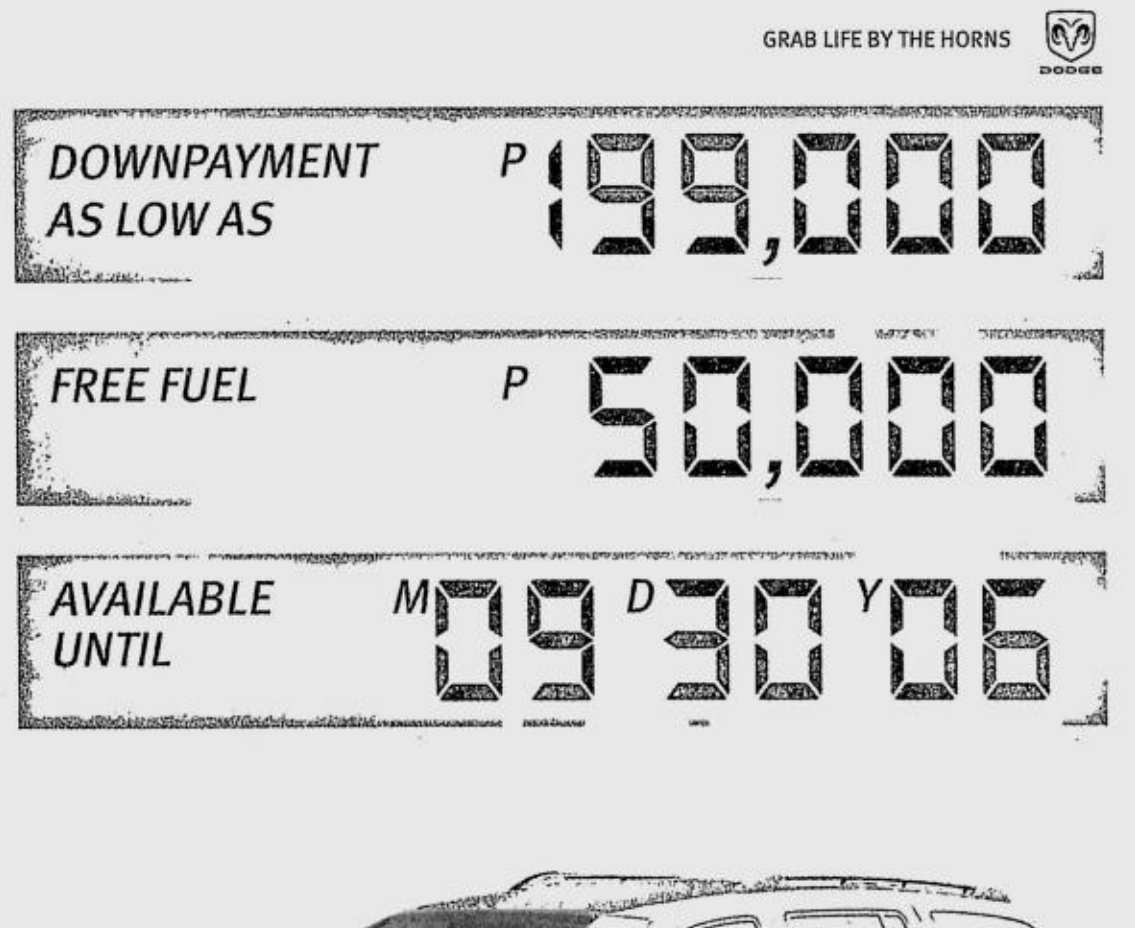

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B
PSDC Bldg., #89 P. Burgos cor. Alegre Sts., Batangas City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Public Bidding of IT Equipments of PRO IV-B
ITB # PRO4B-06-012

The **PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICE IV-B (PRO IV-B)** through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) 2006 intends to apply the sum of ***three million two hundred fifty five thousand pesos (Php 3,255,000.00)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments for the purchase of Desktop Computers, Laserjet Printers, Dot Matrix Printers, LCD Projector, and Universal Rack Cabinet with Rack Mountable UPS. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Lot No.	PARTICULARS	UNITS	SPECIFICATIONS	Approved Budget
1	Desktop Computers	33	Ref. No. PRO4B-06001 (23 units) Ref. No. PRO4B-06002 (8 units) Ref. No. PRO4B-06003 (2 units)	P 2,145,000.00
	Laserjet Printer	5	Ref. No. PRO4B-06004	P 125,000.00
	Printer Dot Matrix	6	Ref. No. PRO4B-06005	P 210,000.00
2	LCD Projector	3	Ref. No. PRO4B-06006	P 525,000.00
3	Rack Mountable UPS and Universal Rack Cabinet	1	Ref. No. PRO4B-06007	P 250,000.00

The PRO IV-B now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the **Public Bidding of IT Equipments for PRO IV-B** as presented above. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using **non-discretionary pass/fail criteria** as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organization of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder of the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***three thousand five hundred pesos (Php 3,500.00)***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The PRO IV-B will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 26, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the 3rd floor, Conference Room, PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B.

Bids and Eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 10, 2006, 11:00 a.m.** Late bids will not be accepted. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount.

FORM OF SECURITY	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit.	One percent (1%) per lot
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%) per lot

Bid opening shall be on **October 10, 2006 2:00 p.m.** at the 3rd Floor, Conference Room, PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The PRO IV-B reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Rhonalyn Marasigan / Johnrey Iguiron (BAC Secretariat)
PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B
PSDC Bldg. #89 P. Burgos corner Alegre Sts., Batangas City
Tel. No. (043)723-8822 loc. 201
Facsimile No. (043)723-8822 loc. 409
e-mail address: region4b@philhealth.gov.ph

(Sgd.) CIRILO C. BALMACEDA
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -September 12 & 19, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5285 / 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

PARTICULAR	APPROVED BUDGET
5KVA Uninterruptible Power Supply Under FGA 61614	*PHP 3,100,000.00*
Various Sizes of Pneumatic Control Valves	
under FGJ 60811	*PHP 10,300,000.00*
under FGJ 60836	*PHP 2,150,000.00*
LOT OFFER	*PHP 12,450,000.00*

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Roderick R. Cabantog** and **Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** starting **September 12, 2006**, from **9:30 AM to 3:30 PM** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **September 21, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property and Materials Management Division, at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m.** (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock time) on **October 5, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) FRANCIS M. DOLOR
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–Sept. 12 & 19, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PROCUREMENT OF 1ST AND 2ND QUARTER REQUIREMENTS FOR CY 2007 REFLECTIVE SHEETING MATERIALS WITH LTO SECURITY IMAGES FOR USE IN THE PRODUCTION OF MV LICENSE PLATES INCLUDING BONDING TO ALUMINUM SUBSTRATE/SHEETS

The Land Transportation Office, through General Fund (Fund 101) intends to apply the sum of Twenty Two Million Six Hundred Seventy One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Six and 6/100 (P22,671,356.06) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of payment for the procurement of 1st and 2nd Quarter Requirements for CY 2007 Reflective Sheeting Materials with LTO Security Images for use in the Production of MV License Plates Including Bonding to Aluminum Substrate/ Sheets. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 10,000.00, in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 5, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 17, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half Percent (1 ½%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2 ½%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on October 17, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan – Chairman, BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9219077 – telefax

(Sgd.) ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN
BAC-Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 19, & Oct. 2, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
IBM DAKSH BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES 30/F. PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ravi Krishnaswamy Iyengar	Operations General Manager
TNKC (MANILA) CORPORATION 16/F, Marc 2000 Tower 1973 Taft Ave., Malate, Manila	Yidong Liu	Engineer Superintendent
YI DA XIN TRADING CORP. Rm. 505, 957 G. Masangkay St. Binondo, Manila	Guobo Wang	Sales Manager
YI DA XIN TRADING CORP. Rm. 505, 957 G. Masangkay St., Binondo, Manila	Mingxiang Shi	Technical Consultant
ONE STOP CONSULTANCY AND GENERAL SERVICES, INC. Rm. 306 BOC Aduana Bldg. 409 A. Soriano Ave., Intramuros, Manila	Min Kyung Choi	Sales Manager
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK OF CHINA 3/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Li-Tung Chen	Project Manager
BALLYHOO GRAPHICS SYSTEMS & PRINTING INC. 61 San Rafael St., Plainview Subd., Mandaluyong City	Dong Pill Park	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 19, 2006)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFICATION AND SEALED BIDDING

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) has received a subsidy from the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The proceed of subsidy is for construction of the line under the Rural electrification Program.

Interested parties are hereby invited to a Pre-Qualification and sealed Bidding for supply or hereunder mention project.

Project : Construction of distribution line for 13 barangays under AWP'06
Location : NORSAMELCO Coverage area
Contract : Supply of materials
Amount : Php 12.5M

PACKAGE	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	
1	Pole Line Hardware	1	lot
2	Conductor, Bare No. 2 AWG 6/1 Brand: Unicon, Phelp Dodge or American Wire Cable	69,500.00	meters
3	Conductor, Bare No. 1/0 AWG 6/1 Brand: Unicon, Phelp Dodge or American Wire Cable	19,400.00	meters
4	Transformer, double bushing with external tap changer (Brand new (Philec, Wagner or equivalent) 15 Kva 25 Kva	 15 1	 units unit
5	Poles, Wood a. 40', class 3	 2	 pcs.
6	Poles, Steel eight sides, 2.5mm thick hot dip galvanized, A36, ASTM 123 a. 30'/4-top dia - 100mm bottom dia-200mm; 2 sections b. 35'/4-top dia-120mm, bottom dia 210mm; 2 sections	 365 75	 pcs. pcs.
7	Supply of labor	1	lot

Bid forms will be issued after passing of Eligibility of Bid and upon payment of Seven Thousand Pesos (Php7,000.00) non-refundable.

Acceptance of letter of intent Receipt of Eligibility Requirement (ie. Legal, financial documents, list of similar contract, address, amount date)	September 19-30, 2006
Issuance of Eligibility to Bid	October 1-7, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference/Issuance of Bid	October 17, 2006 @ 10:00 AM
Documents Opening of Sealed Bid	October 31, 2006 @ 10:00 AM

Only qualified bidders who were passed during the pre-qualification screening will be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bid proposals must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in an acceptable form.

The PBAC will use non discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility check/Screening as well as the preliminary examination of Bids. The PBAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest bid.

NORSAMELCO hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein, and to accept such bids as may be deemed advantageous to NORSAMELCO.

For further information please contact the following nos. 0917-3042867/09173619744/Telefax 055-2516163.

(Sgd.) NILO A. ESTOPA
Chairman

Noted by: **(Sgd.) SALVADOR G. HERNANDEZ**
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 19 & 22, 2006)

MARINDUQUE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (MARELCO)
Ihatub, Boac, Marinduque

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MARELCO) through its Pre-Bid and Awards Committee (PBAC) hereby invites all interested suppliers for public bidding for the supply and delivery of electrical materials and equipments for the Conversion of Radial Type Feeder to Loop Primary Feeder (Interlooping).

Schedule I — Pole line Hardwares
Schedule II — Wires and Cables
Schedule III — Poles and Crossarms
Schedule IV — Pole Line Equipment

Approved Budget — P2.9M
Source of Funds — National Electrification Administration (NEA)

Bidding Requirements:
1. Bidder must be an "Accredited Supplier" of MARELCO
2. Must have attended the Pre-Bid Conference
3. Must have secured Bid Forms and Documents upon payment of non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Pesos (4,000.00)
4. Must have posted 10% Bid Bond in cash or Manager's check

Schedule of Activities:
1. Pre-Bid Conference — Sept. 25, 2006 -9:00 a.m.
2. Bid-Submission and Opening — Sept. 25, 2006 - 1:00 p.m.
3. Submission of recommendation of Award to the General Manager — Sept. 26, 2006

MARELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities therein or accept the bid that in its judgment is the most beneficial to the Cooperative.

For more information, please contact the PBAC Chairman, Norberto Manrique at Telephone Nos.: (042)3321044.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO Q. BUENO**
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 17 & 19, 2006)

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OBITUARIES

LYDIA LEUTERIO IMPERIAL

Peacefully joined our Lord
on September 18, 2006 at the age of 73.

Her bereaved children **Raul** and **Suzette, Gina** and **Butch, Renee, Lia**; her sister **Portia**, her loving grandchildren **Gino Nicolo, Sophie Martinne, Gillian Nicole** and **Renzo Benjamin**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Details of funeral Mass will be announced at a later date.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life
He who believes in Me shall have eternal life."

Our Dearly Beloved

VINCE ALEXANDER D. ZAÑO

Peacefully joined the Lord on September 16, 2006
at the age of 17.

His bereaved parents **Felix** and **Vicky**; sister **Felise Vida**; brother **Kevin Victor**, relatives and friends request you to join them in offering prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Bahay Recoleto, Our Lady of Consolation Parish Church, Mira Nila, Tandang Sora, Quezon City and will be brought to the Ateneo de Manila High School Chapel on September 21, 2006, Thursday, for the 8:00 a.m. Memorial Mass. Interment follows at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

MONICA "Monet" BARRICA DE VILLA

passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 17, 2006 at the age of 59.

With a deep sense of loss,
the Officers, Staff & Employees of

SOUTHEAST ASIAN COLLEGE, INC.

and

UNITED DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER

condole with her entire family and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremains lie at the Santuario de San Antonio (Capilla dela Virgen), Forbes Park, Manila.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at 12:00 noon at the Heritage Memorial Park. The Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. at Santuario de San Antonio Church, Forbes Park, Makati City.

DEATH NOTICE

Hermelina D. Sevilla
(Sept. 13, 1931-Sept. 15, 2006)
Her body lies in state at Floresco Funeral Homes, General Luna St., Malabon City.
Interment to be announced.

"Come you who are blessed by my Father
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you."

In Loving Memory
On the First Death Anniversary of our Beloved

PATROCINIO OCAMPO-JAVIER
(of Aniban, Bacoor, Cavite and Las Piñas City)
September 27, 1935 – September 19, 2005

Her family requests relatives and friends to remember **PAT** in their prayers.

Holy Masses will be offered today, September 19, 2006 at the following:

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City ..... 6 AM
Eternity Memorial Park
Bacoor, Cavite ..... 3 PM

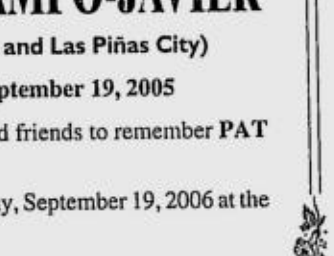
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

GREGORIO Salivio ALBAO, Sr.

Retired State Prosecutor
of Baleno, Masbate

Born: March 12, 1931

"Yoyo" joined his Lord and Savior on **September 13, 2006**



A Man of Integrity

WE,
His loving wife – **Dibay,**
Children **Aik & Myra, Jocelyn, Bong & Lootsie, Aying & Nhel, Fr. Alan, Ophie & Dell, Queen & Bhal, Zusie & Bert, Darl, Diane;** together with grandchildren, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Our beloved Papa lies in state at #35 Magallanes St., San Miguel, Magarao, Camarines Sur. Interment will be on September 23, 2006 at Eternal Gardens, Balatas Road, Naga City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral, Naga City.

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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	PLACE
PEDRO T. BRILLANTE	Chapel – B	September 23, 2006 10:00 A.M.	Heaven's Gate II Memorial Garden Antipolo City
KRISTINE MARA B. PAZON	Chapel – E	September 19, 2006 9:00 A.M.	Eternal Gardens Memorial Park

"Though I walk through the valley of death,
I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4

MONICA "MONET" BARRICA DE VILLA

passed away on Sunday, September 17, 2006
at the age of 59.

Her husband, **General Rene de Villa, AFP (Ret)**; her children **Icee** and **Jack, Patrick** and **Tet, Jenee, Miko**, her grandchildren **Monica, Mikee, Bettina, Eon** and **Andreo**, her relatives and dearest friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremains lie at the Santuario de San Antonio (Capilla dela Virgen), Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at 12:00 noon at the Heritage Memorial Park. The Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. at Santuario de San Antonio Church, Forbes Park, Makati City.

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BSP seen keeping policy interest rates unchanged

By Doris C. Dumlao

SINGAPORE—THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas is likely to keep its overnight interest rates steady for the 11th straight month during its next monetary-setting meeting on Thursday given a benign outlook on inflation.

"Current and expected inflation continue to support the maintenance of (current rates) at this point," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters at the sidelines of the joint International Monetary Fund-World Bank annual meetings.

Inflationary pressures easing

Tetangco said the peso's appreciation since the start of the year was likewise tempering inflationary pressures, particularly by making oil imports cheaper.

On the offshore market, the US Federal Reserve was expected to keep its own interest rates on hold, Tetangco said.

The BSP has kept its overnight borrowing rate at 7.5 percent and the overnight lending rate at 9.75 percent since October last year.

The Philippine inflation rate softened further in August to 6.3 percent from 6.4 percent in July, or within the BSP's forecast range and in line with expectations that inflation would decelerate in the second half of this year.

Local monetary authorities expect inflation to decelerate to the targeted path of 4-5 percent next year.

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board will meet Thursday several hours after the US Fed Open Market Committee would have finished its own session.

David Burton, the IMF's director for Asia and the Pacific, said in a briefing here on Saturday that the interest rate cycle in the region was likely nearing its peak and that oil prices, while still high, were expected to stabilize.

He said inflation in the region seemed to be quite well under control because many countries in the region have been proactive in tightening monetary policy and that exchange rate appreciation in a number of countries had also helped keep inflationary pressures under control.

"Inflation expectations also remain in check and, for this reason, we expect a fairly benign outlook for inflation next year. In particular, I would mention that in those countries where inflation has picked up, such as Indonesia and the Philippines, or did pick up I should say, it is now coming down and is expected to continue to do so next year," Burton said.

But Burton cautioned that producer price inflation was running quite a bit higher than consumer price inflation in most countries, leading to the possibility that businesses may begin to pass on higher costs of doing business as corporate profits get squeezed.

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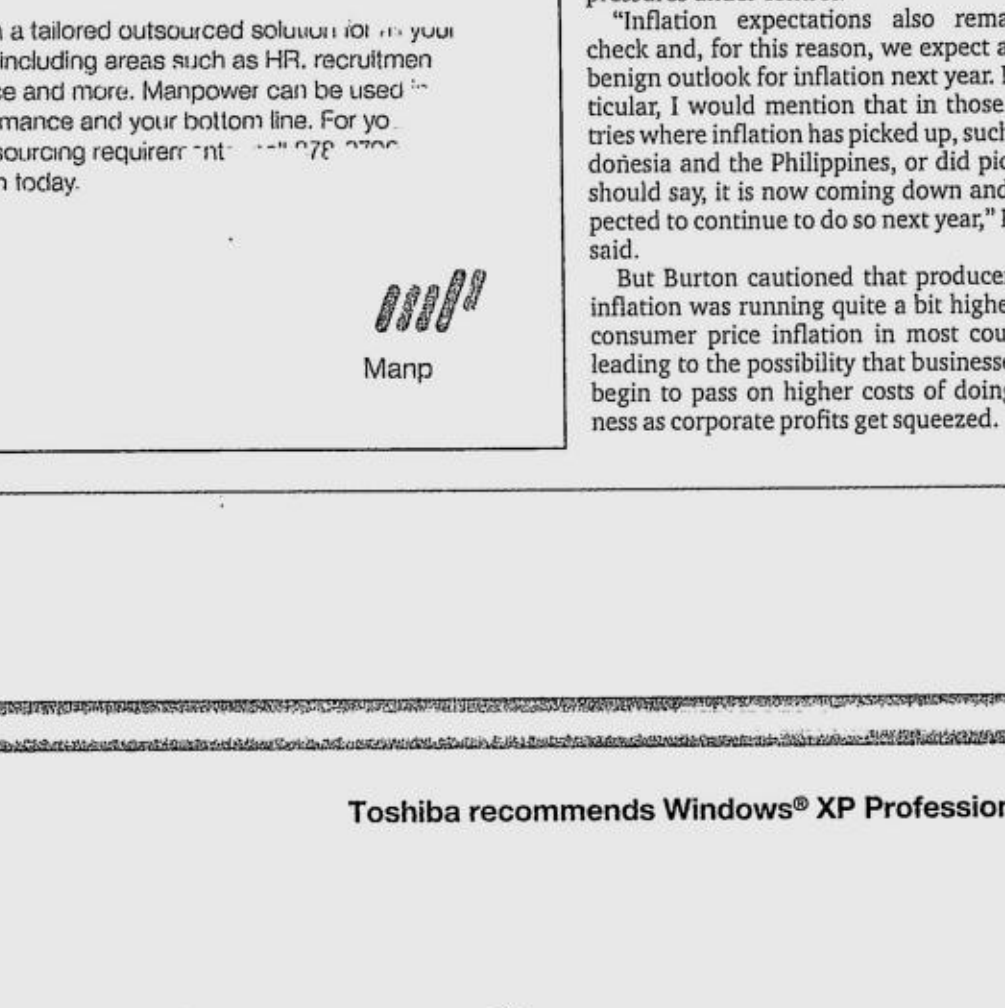

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IN THIS ISSUE

■ **People are visual eaters** /C3

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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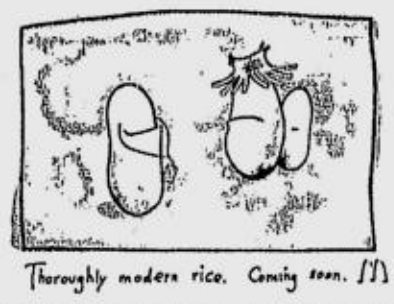

The dye is cast

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

By Chit Roces
Contributor

"ONCE YOU START, THAT'S IT: THERE'S no way you can stop," warned Letty as she shook her full head of salt and pepper, flaunting the sheen of never-dyed tresses at my face.

As teenagers, Letty and I both wore long hair: she, down to her waist; me, just below the shoulders. Not having seen much of her since I moved out of our village, I am always glad to bump into her.

She still looks trim, something owed, I think, not only to regular golf but also to her choice of clothes—conservative yet chic. Like me, she has cropped her hair to a bob. She looks so youthful I think it a pity that she has done nothing about her graying, which prompted me once to ask if she was allergic to hair dye.

I am allergic myself, but have found the rare, compatible brand and was ready to let her in on it. But she wasn't interested.

In fact, she didn't know if she was allergic—she didn't even care to know, not after having observed that the dye is cast in the very first application. "Like an addiction," she said.

Allergic

In my case, the dye was cast in my 40s. As she was towel-drying my hair, the girl at the parlor gasped, "Ma'am, next time *ho, mag*-hair dye *na tayo!*"

It was that next time that I discovered I was allergic. First, my head began to warm, then to throb, then to develop welts along the hairline. And then, the itch, the big itch, unbearable yet unrelievable by scratching! Emergency rinsing with cold water and a tablet of antihistamine saved me.

The enemy was peroxide and ammonia, ingredients so vital in hair dye that, for a moment there, I thought I was doomed to irremediable grayhood. But I wasn't giving up. Sure enough, a precise brand for my case turned up in Australia and another in the US, and relatives in both places guaranteed my supply.

I have since been shifting within my safe range of browns—"medium brown," "medium ash-brown" and "medium warm brown." I did venture once into burgundy but it turned coppery, and then into auburn but I was brought to the verge of green. But then again, as Cousin Ginny, my flower girl, now a dyer herself, would say, anything is better than white.

"I'd rather look crazy than old," she said when her own hair turned positively green.

I enjoy the compliments of fellow dyers and, feeling like an expert, I am only too glad to share dyeing tips with them.

When my dad came home after his six-year diplomatic tour in Taiwan, he called to say he had been invited to appear as a guest on television and was concerned he might look like he had aged too much—all his hair had turned white, including the transplants.

Funny it should bother him now when it never did in Taiwan, where no one of any stature goes around with white hair. He is rather vain, really, though not always tastefully. Before the transplants, he had owned wigs that would put some mops to shame—they are even immortalized in family albums.

Anyway, for his moment's requirement, it was too late to take him to the beauty parlor, so I decided to do it myself with the darkest brown from my precious stock. I knew there were hair dyes for men, but I didn't see any problem with cross-dyeing. I thought what they say about sauce for the goose also applied to dyes.

I was quickly proved wrong. On television Dad's hair looked pinkish, and I knew it wasn't my set. To this day I don't know what went wrong. Anyway, he has kept off hair dyes altogether.

> Our moms, now aged 90, 87 and 83 and still with jet-black and lush coifed hair, gave us no choice in the matter

Milepost

Me, I have kept dyeing on, prepared to go the distance, although recently I reached a disturbing milepost.

"*Ay*, ma'am," the girl at the parlor gasped her studied gasp again, "next time *mag*-scalp treatment *na tayo!*"

She meant that my once thick and coarse hair had turned baby-hair fine and that, inevitably, more and more of it would turn to fuzz—that is, to all intents and purposes, invisible, exposing more and more scalp.

I should have guessed. When I parted it, a distinct strip of scalp was revealed. Also, I was coloring more often.

I thought of quitting. Of course, anyone can quit, but at some cost, largely psychological. Anyway, I brought up the prospect with two cousins my age, dyers themselves and similarly troubled. We always did things together. It was comforting and would be especially so this time. As we discussed our case, an eavesdropping younger male cousin remarked, "What's the big deal? Your own husbands are all white-haired themselves."

Obviously lacking yet in wisdom, he didn't know husbands were not the competition. It was, rather, our moms, who gave us no choice in the matter, now aged 90, 87 and 83 and still wearing their hair coifed, jet-black and lush, the very same moms who have looked more beautiful and glamorous than we could ever hope to look ourselves. We'll be darned if we so much as risk our only advantage—comparative youth.

Come to think of it, Letty herself had a beautiful mom, although she died young, long before she could begin to worry about graying, leaving her daughter the full freedom of choice—to dye or not to dye.

More simple cures

Part II

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY, YOU ARE unconsciously doing things to make yourself well or unwell. At the end of the day, you will either find yourself exhausted or still energized, depending on your chosen lifestyle.

Is it possible to derive as much power and pleasure from our bodies despite the passage of time? The answer is yes.

There is still so much of life waiting for you, just as there is yet so much of life in you.

Here are some disease-preventing information bits:

Bra-less vs breast cancer

Anthropologist and researcher Sydney Ross Singer and his wife Soma Grismaiger, say in their book "Dressed To Kill: The Truth Between Cancer And Bras" (Avery Publishing), women who wear very tight bras for a long period of time, say 12 hours a day, are more likely to develop breast cancer than those who don't wear bras.

Worse, women who wear bras when they sleep are 125 times more likely to develop the dreaded disease.

Tight bras smash lymph vessels situated very close to the breast's surface. The cleansing action of lymph fluids that flow through the vessels to clean out toxins is prevented by bras.

Bras also squeeze clusters of lymph nodes in the armpits that produce immune cells to fight disease.

Tips:

1) Don't wear a bra to bed.

2) Use a bra loosely. It should never leave a mark on your back or skin.

3) When removing a bra, massage your breasts to get the lymph flowing again.

4) Try to minimize wearing underwire, push-up or strapless bras.

5) Try not to wear a bra at all.

Tea for cancer prevention

A 4,000-year-old brew has acquired an image as an anticancer tonic. Thank "The Divine Healer," Chinese Emperor Shen Nung, for discovering the healing benefits of tea by accidentally dropping tea leaves into a pot of boiling water. Polyphenols in tea have anti-oxidant properties and can slow down cancer-causing reactions in our body.

Recent studies have shown that black tea has health benefits but green tea has more protective power, especially against cancer of the esophagus, the tube that carries food from throat to stomach.

To prevent this cancer:

- Avoid eating or drinking burning hot foods. Their temperature can damage the esophagus and increase the chances of developing cancer five times.
- Stop smoking.
- Drink in moderation (twice a week only).
- Limit consumption of smoked foods—bacon, hotdog, ham, etc.

(From American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts/Figures)

Preventing a cold

While avoiding this virus remains a challenge, there are tried and tested ways handed down to us by our ancestors that can ease the problem.

- Virgin coconut oil—As a preventive, this all-around miracle oil has antiviral properties. Take 1-2 tablespoons daily to boost your energy and immune system.
- Vitamin C—Take at least 1,000 mg a day.
- Juice up—Drink a fresh glass of vegetable/fruit juice daily (carrot-apple, pineapple banana, sugar-beet-carrot, etc.).
- Water cure—drink 10-12 glasses of water daily.
- Exercise—It's the only way to keep your body fit.
- Sleep well—get enough rest every night.

If you have a cold, take herbal comfort from Echinacea, as tea, hyssop, or horehound in tea or in lozenge form.

Honey for health

Pooh Bear was right. Licking the last drop of honey is good for you. According to researchers of the American Health Foundation, honey has ingredients that work against precancerous colon changes.

While tests are still being done on rats, results are encouraging. The honey ingredient is called caffeic esters, which come from the thick brown material that honey bees get from trees to cement beehives. More reason to protect our rainforests.

Honey polish:

One of my favorites is a sleek, smooth, cool honey rub. For a sensual, yet antibacterial, skin smoother, try chilled honey all over your body. Massage lightly. Instant relaxation guaranteed!

Love and light.

Reference: "Inner Cleansing Cures," Editors of FC & A Medical Publishing

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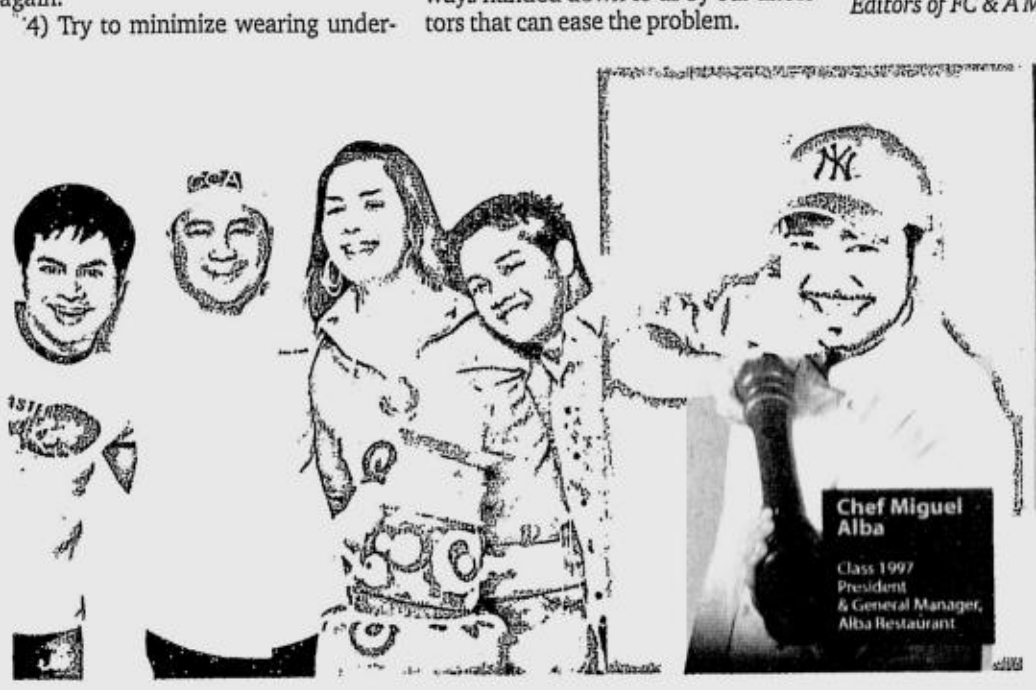
Take Charge Doc!

What is the significance of fatty liver?

Fatty liver (Non-Alcoholic Steatorrhoeic Hepatosis (NASH) or Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) is a condition where healthy liver cells are being replaced with fat and primarily affects people who are overweight. Other signs of having fatty liver are (1) blood sugar and liver enzyme elevations, (2) high cholesterol and triglycerides, and (3) feeling tired most of the time. Fatty liver is the most common cause of abnormal liver function tests. The elevated liver enzyme results mean that there is damage to the liver cells and if left untreated, a severe inflamed fatty liver can lead to scarring of the liver tissue (cirrhosis) which may in turn be a risk for liver cancer. Luckily the liver is capable of regenerating itself and with proper diet, weight loss and supplements, it can repair itself and the enzyme levels will slowly come down over time in the case of simple fatty liver.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Metro Manila, Dr. Maria Cristina B. Caluag-Africa. She specializes in IM-Gastroenterology. Doc Tina as she commonly addressed by her patients is a graduate of medicine from FEU-NRMF in 1998. She took her specialization course for Internal Medicine at St. Luke's Medical Center in 2002 and later earned her subspecialty training for Gastroenterology in the same institution. She is a diplomate of the Philippine Society of Gastroenterology, Philippine Society of Digestive Endoscopy and a fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians. MEDICARD members may avail of her consultation services at Dr. Jesus Delgado Memorial Hospital during Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3pm to 5pm at room M1.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montaya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquirya medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.



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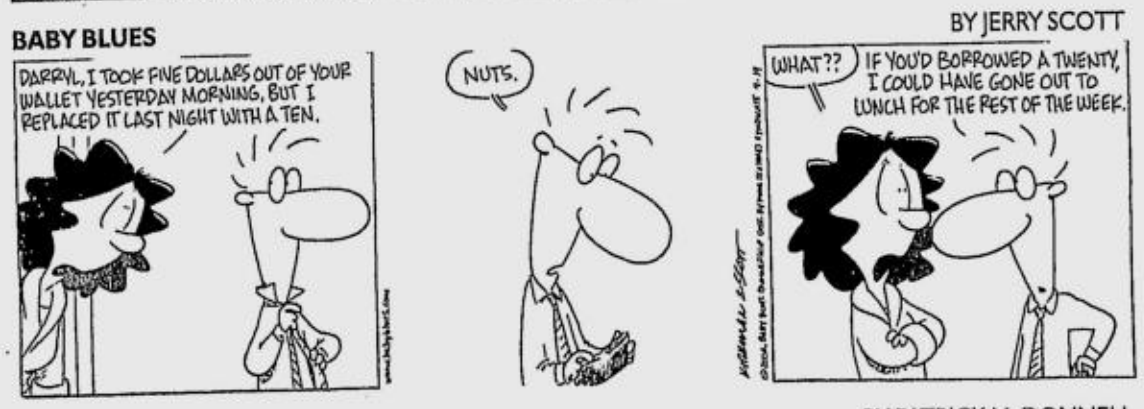
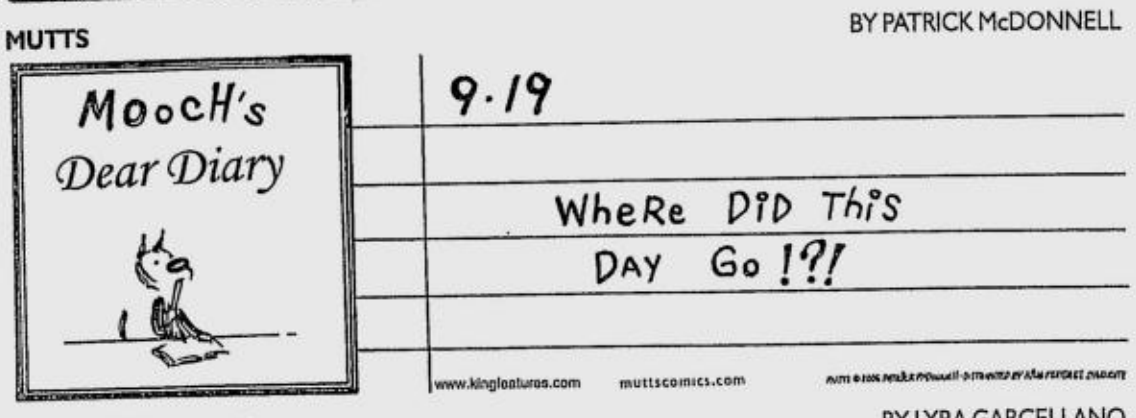
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

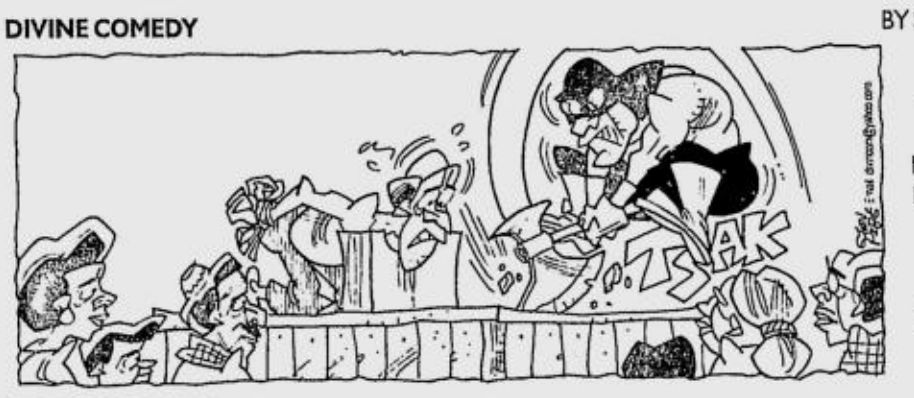
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY MANIX ABRERA

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



TUMAGAL ANG EXECUTION DAHIL ANG KINUHA NILANG BERDUGO AY DULING

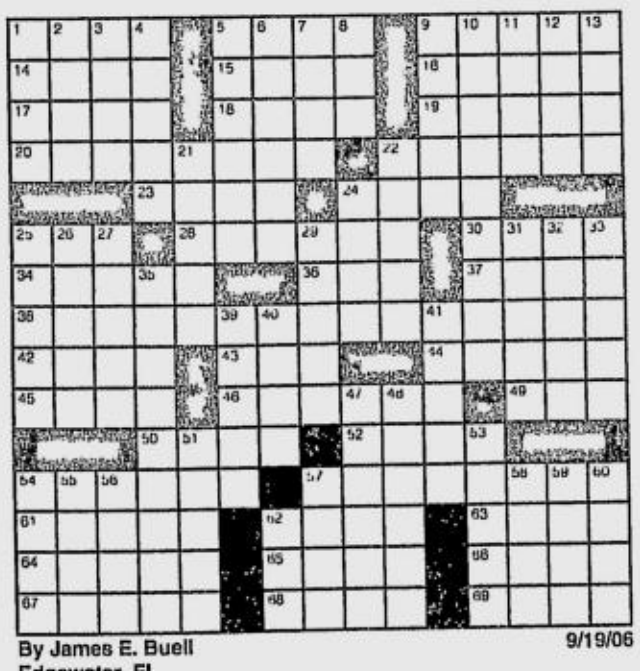
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

9/19/06

ACROSS
1 Computer info
5 Staved container
9 Quitter's comment
14 Cassini of fashion
15 Bologna eight
16 Drew or Mariah
17 Grimm meanie
18 Arab garments
19 Go in
20 Cruisin' locale
22 Managed with less
23 Dry run
24 Like linoleum buildup
25 Chart
28 Evening star
30 Beach toy
34 Turk's neighbor
36 FedEx rival
37 Forearm bone
38 Possible title for this puzzle?
42 Mustachioed surrealist
43 Part of TGIF
44 Single-handedly
45 Of the ear
46 Clobbers
49 G-man
50 "Twittering Machine" artist
52 Zany Martha
54 Poor performance
57 Fountain employee
61 "Dog and Butterfly" rock group
62 Grad
63 Zeno's home
64 Safin of tennis
65 Shuttle org.
66 Reunion group
67 Author of "Dred"
68 Tiptop
69 Yarn

DOWN
1 Impending ruin
2 Pond bloomers
3 Polo of "Meet the Parents"
4 Go-between
5 Granular
6 Plate appearances
7 Men-only affair
8 Ring stats
9 Mountain climbing aid
10 Sticky get-together
11 Comic Johnson
12 Have to have
13 Novice
21 Beelzebub
22 Boggy lowland
24 Shed tears
25 Bungle
26 Enlightened Buddhist
27 Corsican patriot
29 Prize money
31 Haughty
32 Cockamamie
33 Put on cargo
35 Gunfighter's survival characteristic
39 Fraught with risk
40 Nice to be?
41 No-stress class
47 Awaken
48 Mel Gibson title role
51 Central Perk serving?
53 VCR button
54 Resistance units
55 Notable deed
56 Casino game
57 High-five sound
58 Cinders of comics
59 Actual
60 "Citizen __"
62 "SNL" alum Gasteyer

Monday's Puzzle Solved

W	A	R	P	S		S	T	A	R		A	S	P	S
A	G	I	L	E		M	O	R	E		B	L	O	C
S	H	E	E	T	M	U	S	I	C		N	O	R	A
P	A	L	A	T	E		S	E	A	P	O	W	E	R
			S	O	D	A		S	P	E	R	M		
B	A	S	E		I	L	K		S	A	M	O	A	N
U	S	N		H	A	L	L	S		K	A	T	I	E
R	H	O	D	A		O	I	L		E	L	I	D	E
S	E	W	E	R		W	E	I	R	D		O	E	D
A	R	M	A	D	A		G	N	U		A	N	D	S
		O	D	E	L	L		G	R	I	T			
S	I	B	E	R	I	A	N		A	T	O	P	I	C
O	D	I	N		S	T	A	B	L	E	M	A	T	E
B	O	L	E		O	T	T	O		M	I	R	E	D
S	L	E	D		N	E	O	N		S	C	A	R	E

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9/19/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a stylish elegance. You're capable of setting trends. You have excellent taste and are often concerned with the appearance of things. (You take care with your grooming and your wardrobe.) You strive to establish order in your life, and you do this very well. This year you will leave something you were involved with for almost a decade.
Birthdate of: Alison Sweeney, actress; Jimmy Fallon, comedian; Trisha Yearwood, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day for business and commerce. Whatever you do today at work can be profitable or beneficial to yourself or others. Coworkers are supportive

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Beautiful new love is possible for many of you. All social occasions (romantic or otherwise) are blessed today! This is also a good day for financial speculation.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Socialize at home. Invite family over. You'll enjoy entertaining friends and loved ones. Why not buy something to make your home look more beautiful?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Communication with others, especially siblings and relatives, is pleasant, upbeat and joyful today. This is an excellent day to sign contracts and enter into negotiations with others. It's a good time to form partnerships

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Business and commerce are favored today. You can enjoy making money, and you will enjoy spending it as well! Respect your moneymaking ideas. Don't be afraid to think big!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel quite content with your life today. Furthermore, this feeling of content spills over so that you want to be benevolent or helpful to others as well. It's good to be alive!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Solitude in beautiful surroundings might please you today. You're quite content today. Communications and dealings with the government and large institutions can be successful

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a wonderful day to schmooze with friends and groups. Get out and enjoy the company of others. Don't be afraid to dream big. Talk to people about your hopes for the future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You make a marvelous impression on others today. In particular, bosses, parents and VIPs will think you're the cat's meow. Because of this, state your case. Demand the advantage!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Opportunities connected with travel, dealings with foreign countries, publishing and higher education are definitely possible today. Be alert for these.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Gifts, goodies, favors and perks from others can come your way today. Someone might lend you something or let you use what he or she owns. Just say thank you!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Relationships with partners and close friends are joyful and pleasant today. Get out and schmooze! Enjoy good times with others.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

8		6	9		7	1		4
			4		2			
1								5
2	4						5	7
				8				
3	5						8	6
9								3
			8		6			
5		3	2		9	4		8

Difficulty Level ★★

9/19

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	7	4	1	5	9	6	8
5	1	6	7	9	8	3	4	2
9	8	4	6	3	2	1	7	5
7	9	5	2	8	1	6	3	4
8	4	1	3	7	6	5	2	9
6	3	2	9	5	4	8	1	7
2	5	3	8	6	7	4	9	1
4	6	8	1	2	9	7	5	3
1	7	9	5	4	3	2	8	6

Difficulty Level ★

CUT & SAVE

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Standing calf stretch

DO THIS STRETCH SEVERAL TIMES A DAY IF YOU WEAR HIGH heels to keep the calf muscles from getting tight. This stretch is also beneficial for people who play sports that require a lot of jumping. People who run or walk uphill will also feel the lengthening effect on their calf muscles.

Equipment: none

Exercise:

1. Stand with your right leg in front and your left leg behind.
2. Bend your right leg and straighten your left leg. Make sure your toes are facing straight ahead.
3. Lean forward from the hips with a straight back. Press your left heel into the floor.
4. Hold the stretch in the calf for at least 10 seconds.
5. Do the other side.

Performance tips:

1. Keep your back foot facing the front and not the side to lengthen and stretch the calf muscles properly.
2. Keep your heel pressed into the floor throughout the stretch.
3. Continue to breathe normally as you hold the stretch.
4. Avoid bouncing your heel backward.
6. Another option is to place your hands on your thigh.

Repetitions:

Repeat as many times throughout the day as you feel necessary to keep your calves from tightening up. Hold for at least 10 seconds each time.

Evolution, environment and weight gain

Part II

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

THE TENDENCY TO go on eating binges doesn't just happen to people with bulimia (an eating disorder characterized by bingeing then vomiting) or those suffering from compulsive eating.

Bingeing seems to be a survival mechanism, too. It is triggered by deprivation and periods of not having enough to eat. Since food was not always easy to find, bingeing was advantageous. Primitive man would eat and store as many calories as he could in one sitting.

Scientists believe human beings are also hardwired to be visual eaters. You may not be hungry but when you see a commercial for pizza on television, you suddenly feel a craving and your fingers are soon reaching for your phone to order home delivery.

You don't intend to have dessert but when you see the chocolate cake your friend orders, there go your good intentions.

Action plan: If you go on a starvation diet, a binge will not be far behind. Cut back on calories moderately so you don't feel deprived and trigger an eating binge.

Don't keep sweet or salty temptations at home where you can see them. If you feel a craving from seeing a food commercial, distract yourself for 15 minutes by doing something that requires your attention and focus. If you really aren't hungry, the craving will usually pass.

Buffet

Food was not always as readily available as it is now. If we were created like koalas that only eat eucalyptus leaves, we would have become extinct. Thus, we are designed to eat almost anything edible on this earth.

According to a report in the Tufts University Health & Nutrition Newsletter, human beings are genetically programmed for "sensory specific satiety." This simply means that if you keep eating the same kind of food, you get sick of eating it.

The report explains it another way: The second chocolate bar never tastes as good as the first and might go unfinished.

That's why you eat more when you eat "family style" in a restaurant where everyone orders something different and you share all the dishes compared to when you order your own main course. This is the reason you pig out at an all-you-can-eat buffet.

It also explains why people lose weight on one-type-of-food diets like the Cabbage Soup Diet. No matter how much you love *adobo*, if you have it for breakfast, lunch, and dinner day after day, you will end up disliking the very sight and smell of it. You end up eating less from the sheer boredom of the diet.

You might think these types of diets are the answer to all your weight-loss problems but, unfortunately, your body will rebel.

Biological psychologist Marcia Pelchat tells of an experiment wherein people who drank nothing but a vanilla-flavored milk supplement and water for five days started to crave for the opposite type of flavor of food like steaks and pizzas rather than the same type like ice cream, cookies, and cake.

Pelchat says cravings may be the body's way of encouraging you to eat a more varied diet.

Action plan: Avoid buffets if you are trying to lose weight. Eat simple meals.

Researchers have found that people who do not eat a large variety of food (except for fruits and vegetables) have an easier time losing weight. This means it's okay to have three kinds of fruit available at home but not three kinds of dessert.

Avoid one-type-food diets. You may lose weight initially but it will eventually backfire on you.

Genes and environment

Someone once said, "Genes cock the gun but the environment pulls the trigger." In an interview for American Health Magazine, Dr. Steven Heymsfield put it another way, "The environment is the switch that turns on the genetic time bomb."

If you change your environment (meaning your lifestyle), you can overcome your genes. In a study comparing 350 female twins, scientists discovered that the sister who was more physically active was slimmer than the sister who was sedentary. This was in spite of the fact that all the twins had a high genetic tendency to be overweight.

The researchers also found that the more active a woman is, the greater her chance of staying slim.

Note: Fitness Network Philippines (formerly AFPP) will hold its National Fitness Convention, "Global Fitness Concepts," Sept. 22-24. Seven international presenters will share the latest in group exercise, personal training, and fitness management. Call 9202762 or 0917-5181202. E-mail convention@fitnessphilippines.org or visit www.fitnessphilippines.org

Note: Internationally acclaimed fitness presenter Lawrence Biscontini will teach Shakti, a blend of yoga, tai chi, and Pilates, Sept. 25 in Alabang and Makati. Call Yoga Manila at 0920-6486536 or visit www.yogamanila.com

Marathon showcases Subic's attractions

ANOTHER ELIMINATION round of the 30th National Milo Marathon was held recently in Subic, the former United States naval base in Olongapo City.

The event was an opportunity for Subic to showcase the many facilities and activities available for visitors.

Olongapo Vice Mayor Rolen Paulino said Subic offered dive sites, nature trails, theme parks, restaurants and shopping centers. Several hotels assured visitors of comfortable and adequate accommodation.

Benny Triguero, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) tourism department manager, said Subic was just 110 kilometers north of Manila and had its own airport and seaport.

Subic's facilities allowed it to host several sporting events, like last year's Southeast Asian Games and Philippine Kayak Competition.

The recent Subic leg of the Milo marathon was graced by Sen. Pia Cayetano and SBMA chair Phil Salonga, administrator Arman Arezza, deputy administrator Ferdie Hernandez and Olongapo Mayor James Gordon.

Over 11,000 joined the competition, including running enthusiasts, students and whole families.

SEN. PIA Cayetano (center) with (from left) Olongapo Vice Mayor Rolen Paulino, SBMA chair Phil Salonga and Milo Sports Events executive Pat Gocong with women winners

STUDENTS were among the enthusiastic participants of the Subic eliminations.

All about what women want

THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ISSUE of Healthy Options Lifestyle Newsdigest is devoted to women and their specific health concerns, "What Women Want."

Women may be surprised to learn that heart disease is the No. 1 threat to their health. The disease kills more women than all forms of cancer combined. "Heart Disease: #1 Killer of Women" provides information on how to reduce the risk of heart disease.

"Learn to Love What You See in the Mirror" is aimed at rebuilding a woman's self-esteem. "Women's Workout" discusses factors to be considered in different problem areas and designing women's workout programs.

Dr. Andrew Weil offers advice on "Dry Skin, Brittle Nails and Thinning Hair."

Healthy Options Lifestyle Newsdigest is free to regular customers of its stores at 1/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L, Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; G/L, Ayala Center, Cebu City; LG/F, SM City, North Edsa; 2/L, SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; 2/L, SM Megamall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City; SM Pampanga; and SM Sta. Rosa, SM Mall of Asia and SM Clark.

Visit www.healthyoptions.com.ph.

YOUR sexual personality, working out and other health concerns are discussed in HO's September-October issue.

Easing pain and discomfort for seniors

THE ELDERLY DO NOT HAVE TO live constantly with the pain and discomfort of osteoarthritis (OA)—a degenerative joint disease.

A world-renowned expert said during a recent seminar the problem could be managed on a long-term basis without surgery.

Professor Jean Yves Reginster, director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Public Health Aspects of Rheumatic Disorders and chair of the University Center for Investigation in Bone and Cartilage Metabolism, University of Liege, Belgium, was in Manila recently to lecture on Disease Modifying Agents in Osteoarthritis, which ushered in "a new era in the management of the disease."

About 200 local orthopedic surgeons attended the seminar organized by the Philippine Orthopaedic Association, Pharmalink Asia Pacific Philippines Inc., and Rottapharm, makers of Viartril-S.

Reginster presented results of years of study on the management of OA, particularly on the efficacy of Crystalline glucosamine sulfate (CGS or Viartril-S) in the treatment of osteoarthritis.

The expert said latest evidence suggested the drug, given daily at 1,500 mg, did not just relieve pain but could also prevent the progression of OA by preventing degradation of the cartilage.

Traditional management of OA primarily involved painkillers. But drugs aimed to alleviate pain had their corresponding side effects, the expert said. Reginster claimed there were "absolutely no side effects" during the latest trial on Viartril-S. No contraindications toward other medications were also recorded.

The risk of total knee replacement was reduced by 73 percent during the five-year follow-up, the studies noted.

It was also reported that, by using the new drug, costs of treating and managing OA were reduced by 51 percent compared to the traditional management.

The Rotta preparation glucosamine sulfate was found to not only relieve OA pain and symptoms, but also delayed progress of the disorder. It stimulated the development of bone cartilage and had anti-inflammatory properties seemingly without side effects.

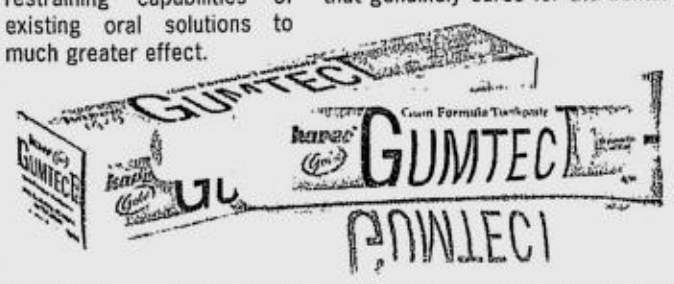
CGS is available in capsule and powder forms. Daily dosage in capsule form costs P96 a day, while the sachet is worth P73. Total replacement surgery costs P300,000-P500,000 per knee.

Pharmalink Asia-Pacific Philippines is the licensed distributor of Rottapharm products in the Philippines, including Viartril-S and the newest drug for OA, Visco-supplementation Hyaluronic Acid.

Affordable and Effective Gum

How sure are you that your gums are healthy? Unfortunately, most Filipinos aren't in the loop when it comes to proper and effective gum care, which often results in a multitude of oral disorders like tooth decay, gingivitis, and halitosis, just to name a few.

To arrest this predicament, Lamoiyan Corporation has recently introduced Hapee Gumtect, an innovative oral care solution that takes the cleansing and bacteria-restraining capabilities of existing oral solutions to much greater effect.



Lamoiyan Corporation managing consultant Ding Salvador says Hapee Gumtect is the result of Lamoiyan's tireless desire to bring only the best products for Filipinos to enjoy and benefit from Lamoiyan Corporation believes that Filipinos must not be deprived of what's best in oral care just because a particular product is expensive, which is why the company constantly maintains that quality must not come at a price.

Hapee Gumtect's efficacy lies in its three powerful ingredients: allantoin, vitamin E and triclosan, all of which prevent and slow down the progress of gingivitis. Allantoin has a healing capability that prevents heat blisters in the mouth and mucous membrane, while helping in the formulation of healthy tissues. Vitamin E makes gums stronger by augmenting blood circulation in the gums. Finally, triclosan is a broad-spectrum antibacterial agent that prevents the swelling caused by gingivitis. It's also effective in hindering the accumulation of trapped food bits that become a breeding ground for bacteria and trigger the flow of acid into the gums.

Hapee Gumtect is the only product of its kind in the market that was formulated by a Filipino company that genuinely cares for the dental needs of Filipinos. It costs far less than international brands and is the first Filipino gum formula toothpaste to be accepted and professionally recommended by the Philippine Dental Association.

Lamoiyan Corporation made a conscious effort to ensure that Hapee Gumtect's cost makes it accessible to everyone. It even costs less than the average fast food fare and is very easy to administer because brushing one's teeth is already a daily habit to most people.

Gumtect is more than just a medical solution—it's the company's way of providing valuable service to Filipinos, who deserve only the best in oral care.

LAMOIYAN CORPORATION
Km 16 West Service Road, South Superhighway, Parañaque City, Philippines

DEPED NCR regional director Dr. Tess Domalanta and Baby Abello, Lactum special events senior executive

QC SCHOOL superintendent Dr. Vicky Fuentes and Dr. Cora Santiago

KATRINA Santos, Lactum senior brand manager, and former DepEd Asec. Ted Catindig

BUBBLY Gikki Martija of Mead Johnson/Lactum and Roxanne Mendoza of Mary Lindbert International

DEPED Undersecretary Ramon Bacani

TRICIA Dizon, Mead Johnson's marketing director

DEPED Asec. Vilma Labrador sings a love song for the children.

PRETTY Mikki Rosal, the dahling daughter of woman of substance Linda Legaspi, top gal of Mary Lindbert International, with DepEd Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo

Nourishing the country's future

BEING A HEALTH BUG, *moi* marked red on my calendar a must-go-to event, *palanggas*.

And faster than you could bat an eyelash, there I was at the fantastic launch of a *tres* timely project, the Lactum 100-percent Nourishment Education program.

Mead Johnson has forged a partnership with the Department of Education "to pursue the good health, a nutrition advocacy," *palanggas*.

The ballroom of New World Renaissance was packed with invitees who were welcomed by hotshots from the partner groups: DepEd Undersecretaries **Fe Hidalgo** and **Ramon Bacani**, Assistant Secretary **Vilma Labrador** and former Asec. **Ted Catindig**; and Mead Johnson hot names **Tricia Dizon**, marketing director; and Lactum's **Gikki Martija**, marketing manager; **Katrina Santos**, senior brand manager; **Doris Teo**, brand manager; and **Baby Abello**, special events senior executive.

The crowd was in full attention as the remarkable Usec. Fe gave the keynote speech. She said: "When I was a grade-schooler, the price of pure cow's milk was 10 centavos. Fortunately, my parents valued milk, as well as breakfast—the most important meal of the day... so I couldn't leave for school unless I had my breakfast... Another must at the Hidalgo house was... to eat our vegetables."

I definitely say amen to that, *palanggas*.

Malnutrition remains one of the major concerns in our country. Imagine this, in the National Capital Region alone, out of 1,135,206 elementary schoolchildren, 120,998 or 10.6 percent are malnourished.

But it's not all gloom and doom, *palanggas*. The people behind Lactum, among others, are doing their bit to lessen the figures.

The poised DepEd NCR director, **Tess Domalanta**, informed us that they had created a program that offers a wide range of nutritional possibilities for pre- and grade-schoolers.

With this very important bit of info *moi* gathered at the event, I went home happy knowing that now, at last, with the right information and right nutrition, hopefully today's young generation will become properly nourished and well-educated adults, *palanggas*.

Iconic

The description a jack of all trades and master of all, *palanggas*, has never been more true than with my iconic pal **Tim Yap**, self-titled "eventologist" and acknowledged as a major influence on modern *Manille*'s thriving, urban cultural landscape.

He single-handedly revolutionized *Manille*'s youth scene, having had an impact on various fields—though always with a playful edge, dahlings—from publishing and television to public relations; from bar and restaurant to successful endorsement of mobile telecommunications.

Today, Tim's latest venture is a dazzling new creation that is already being celebrated in the global design landscape.

Introducing, the Tim Yap Limited-Edition Watch by ODM, an international brand distributed in more than 30 countries all over the world. The quintessential timepiece designed by... "yap"! Tim himself, dahlings—reflects his personal style.

Being a staunch advocate of world-class Filipinism, Yap designed the limited-edition watch to include an edgy rendition of the Philippines with words Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao standing out. The digital screen has a scrolling message: "I am super proud to be Pinoy!"

"We have so many things to be proud of," Tim said. "Sometimes. [we have] to leave the country to appreciate who we are and what we truly have." To that, I say, amen!

The reception for Tim Yap's watch has been awesome. It was launched at globally renowned venues—Fouquet's in Cannes, the New York Grill, Park Hyatt in Tokyo.

In Manila, the grand Limited-Edition launch was held at the swinging Embassy Superclub—but where else?

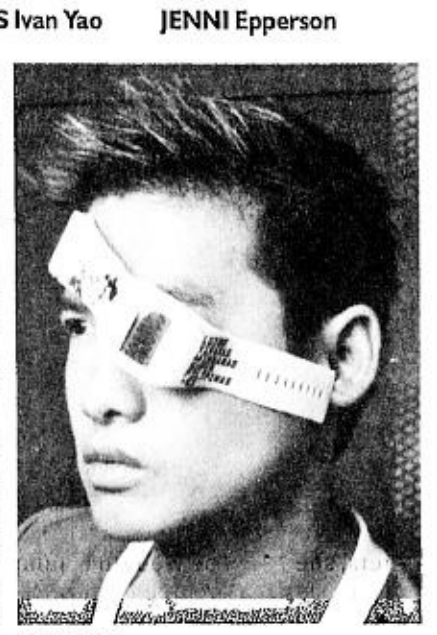
The watch is available in all L Timestudio branches and selected specialty stores.

Check it out. Better yet, get one and wear it. Be proud to be Pinoy, *palanggas*.

ISABELLE Diaz-Daza

LUCERNE'S Ivan Yao

JENNI Epperson


TIM YAP

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's resident manager Frank Grassman and Pornsith Pibulnakarintr of Thai Embassy

HEIDI de Pilar of Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC), Dusit's Francis de Leon and Grace Ventosa of CCC

DUSIT's executive sous chef Joanne Limoanco, Anne Palmares and JB Bolanos of CCA

LYNNE Palma of Philippine Tatler, business magnate Jun Palafox, David and Janine de Padua

DUSIT'S sales manager Jenny Guevarra, Malaysian Embassy's Wan Jaafar Wan Mahamud, sales manager Rhea Odchigue and assistant director of sales Mike Celis

ROLF Saligmann of the German Embassy, Sri Lankan Ambassador W.M. Senevirathna, and Dusit's F&B director Gilbert Uy

DEXTER Decena, Dennis Decena of Roxaco Land, Alfredo Roca of Fuego Hotels, and chef See Cheong Yan of Enderun Colleges

DARA Tuntasood, Sansaya Limsonboon, Churarat Viknyatanee and Kullanit Yingkayun, Benjarong's restaurant manager

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Cookbook

Food connoisseurs from all sections of Cosmo Manille's *sociedad* dashed to the popular Dusit Hotel Nikko's famed Benjarong Royal Thai Cuisine restaurant for the grand launch of the hotel's newest and proudest undertaking, "Thai Way of Life, The Dusit Cookbook."

The cookbook is the latest fab project of the Dusit Group's founder and honorary chair, **Thanpuying Chanut Piyaoui,** no less, *palanggas*. Popular Thai recipes are laid out super clearly and colorfully and discussed in the context of Thai culture.

"It [the book] conveys the Dusit Group's continuing mission to promote the charm of Thai hospitality to the world," said workasonic marketing/communications manager of the hotel, handsome **Francis de Leon**, *palanggas*.

Moi came a bit late, but I was told that while invitees sipped traditional Thai drinks, wine and cocktails, there was a nice short program.

The launch featured the unveiling of a huge version of the coffee-table book by Dusit Hotel Nikko's dedicated general manager, dynamic **Ikuo Itoi**; and Royal Thai Embassy's First Secretary, **Pornsith Pibulnakarintr**.

A fantastic cooking demonstration by Benjarong's popular Thai chef, **Phatcharaporn Noinak**, followed, showcasing three dishes from the book.

Afterwards, we all dug into Benjarong's exquisite Thai dishes. Being a Thai food lover, *moi* must say it was a most satisfying treat, dahlings. Invitees rushed madly to have the Thai chef sign copies of the cookbook sold during the event.

"The Thai Way of Life, The Dusit Cookbook" launch was an experience that showcased Dusit Hotel Nikko's Asia way of life, *palanggas*.

The awesome cookbook is sold at Benjarong and the Deli Shop at the mezzanine level and lobby of the hotel. For more info, call 8673333. *Sawasdee*!

By the way, Dusit has created the most luscious, sweet, to-die-for temptation, Chocolate Mango Cake, *palanggas*. It's definitely a winner.

DONITA Rose

BEA CONSTANTINO and Bubbles Paraiso

TESSA and Dennis Valdes

BEA ZOBEL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Mega keeps eye on indies

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

LOOKS LIKE SHARON CUNETA'S BIG-screen comeback will be delayed.

Just a few weeks back, Sharon wrote INQUIRER Entertainment to say she was set to go back to work "next month ... for my comeback of sorts ... my first since 'Crying Ladies' in December 2003."

But the reunion movie with Aga Muhlach, under Star Cinema, has been pushed to the back burner. Instead, she'll be working on a solo drama movie, also from Star, directed by Chito Roño and tentatively set in London.

"I'll play an OFW. Cameras start grinding in January," she said this week.

After the Europe shoot, work on the Aga movie begins. "Star just wanted to improve on the script, but it'll definitely push through."

She's also committed to a co-production between Unitel Pictures and Star Cinema. "Unitel produced 'Crying' and co-produced 'La Visa Loca' with me," she explained.

GMA, Mother

On top of this, she has said yes to GMA Films, her "first, if all works out as planned and if all stories ... churn out great scripts."

"Recently, I got word that Lily Monteverde of Regal Films has also expressed interest," she said.

Monteverde confirmed this: "I've always been a fan and, with Sharon as star, it has to be a well-planned project."

Sharon replied: "I love Mother Lily and she has been offering me a Regal movie for many, many years. I pray that their creative team will be able to come up with a great one, worthy of Mother Lily's library and my first-ever I-thought-it'd-never-happen film with her company."

Although she is thankful for all the offers, she said, she wouldn't "jump at a project just so I have one to show." It's always

MEGA/ D3

Too young for love?

No one is, says Robin Padilla– -not even Angel

By Nini Valera

ROBIN PADILLA CAN HARDLY WAIT TO make a movie with Angel Locsin.

"I heard Angel is gutsy," Robin told INQUIRER Entertainment in Filipino. "I was told she does her own stunts. Hmmm... I think she's challenging me."

He has yet to meet Angel. "But what man doesn't know her? What man hasn't seen her as 'Darna'?" he said.

Robin has nothing but praise for the 21-year-old actress with a shapely figure and angelic face. "Too young?" he jested. "No one's too young for love."

Robin said he and Angel are set to team up in a project that GMA 7 is cooking up.

In "Blackout," his next indie film produced by Unitel Films and directed by Ato Agustin, Robin is paired with Iza Calzado, one of the most beautiful actresses in show biz today.

"What a figure," Robin said of Iza.

Asked why he always woos his leading ladies, he replied: "It would be too boring on the set if I didn't do that."

Robin, who has been romantically linked to all his leading ladies—Vina Morales, Kris Aquino, Regine Velasquez, among others—is married to Liezl Sicangco, with whom he has four children—Queenie, 14; Kyle, 13; Zhelireen, 12; and Robin Jr., 6.

The actor revealed that he was set to elope with Kris at some point, but that she had a change of heart "when she found out I didn't bring any money."

Despite his on-set dalliances, Robin swore he was a faithful husband and a good father. Liezl still gets jealous occasionally, he said, "but the communication lines between us are always open."

He visits his family in Australia at least four times a year. "My children are growing up to be good persons," he said. "Good education—and how well they speak English! You see, I'm really a serious person when it comes to my family. Liezl has nothing to worry about."

INSIDE

- **Maria Ressa's instructive news special** /D5
- **Girl Valencia, world-class chanteuse** /D6
- **'Amazing Race' Season 10 starts today** /D2

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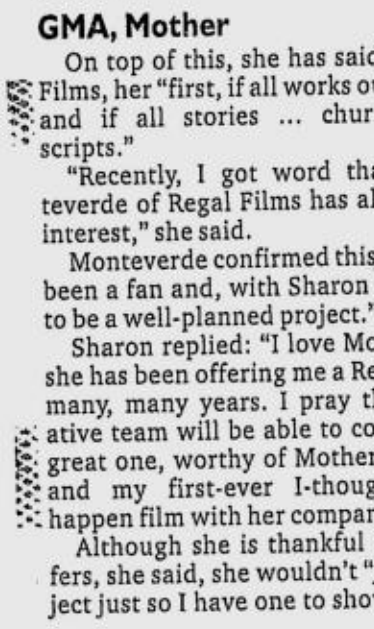
'Twilight Dancers,' uncut, available soon

•THE MUCH-AWAITED "TWILIGHT Dancers" finally hits theaters Sept. 20. It's rated R-18 with three cuts. But limited DVDs of its uncut version will be available soon. So consider the movie a mere teaser and let your imagination dance wild till the twilight is gone.

• An eyewitness swears he saw **Iya Villania** smooching in Shangri-la Mactan with a big network executive. It could be a case of mistaken identity—or could it?



IYA Villania

• **Camille Prats** says she and **John** have no sibling rivalry. "Even if I'm with (GMA) 7 and he's with (ABS-CBN)- 2, we don't feel like we're competing. Sometimes, though, we joke around about ratings—and who has better shows. But it's never been an issue with us *kung sino mas malaki ang* talent fee. We don't spy on each other, either, *para malaman* what the other channel is up to." This brother-sister team has no schemes!

• **Maja Salvador** has developed some sort of phobia when it comes to love. "I don't know why, but whenever I have a BF, *nawawalan ako bigla ng raket. Parang* jinx *ang* guys *sa* life *ko*(laughs)!" So more money but no honey?

• **Kim Chui** could not stop blushing when I asked if she has been to the new condo unit of **Gerald Anderson** "*Ay! Ayoko pumunta dun. Ano namang gagawin ko dun?*" Is she just playing innocent or is she really ignorant of Gerald's good intentions?

• Guess who this sought-after celebrity endorser is: He is in danger of losing one of his biggest endorsements because of his failure to abide by the morality clause of his multimillion contract. Even if he has hit the big time, he succumbs to immoral acts just like any mortal.

New 'bagets'

The texting generation are the *bagets* of the new millenium and they are portrayed in living color—with all their quirks and aspirations—in Star Cinema's "First Day High," inspired by the Rexona commercial song which encapsulates all that the generation stands for.

It stars five of today's brightest young stars: Kim Chui as Indi the Brainy High; Gerald Anderson as MJ2 the MVP High; Maja Salvador as Pre the Sosy High; **Jason Abalos** as Nathan the Nice Guy High; and **Geoff Eigenmann** as Gael the Rebel High. Set in a fictional world where everything is slick and glossy, it boasts of production design never seen before in Pinoy films.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Cosmo bash

The Cosmo Bachelor Bash 2006 sizzles for the fifth year in a row.

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TWILIGHT/ D4

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Mick Lasalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

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Lisa Kennedy, DENVER POST

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1 CRANK
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA/ WICKER MAN
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 SCOOP
5 MONSTER HOUSE/ PENGUIN, PENGUIN
6 WWE UNFORGIVEN
PREMIERE CINEMA
YOU ARE THE ONE
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
CRANK
CINEMA 1
SCOOP
CINEMA 2
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 CRANK
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 WICKER MAN
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 CRANK
7 WICKER MAN
8 WWE UNFORGIVEN
9 SCOOP
10 SNAKES ON A PLANE
11 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12 MONSTER HOUSE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 SCOOP
6 WICKER MAN
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 ETERNITY
9 CRANK
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 BINIBINING K

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 WICKER MAN
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 ETERNITY
7 CRANK
8 MONSTER HOUSE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
11 BINIBINING K
12 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 CRANK
2 WICKER MAN
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 BINIBINING K
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 ETERNITY
9 LITTLE MAN
10 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 WICKER MAN
3 CRANK
4 BINIBINING K
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 CRANK
2 SCOOP
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 WICKER MAN
6 ETERNITY
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 BINIBINING K

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 WICKER MAN
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 SCOOP
3 WICKER MAN
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 CRANK
7 BINIBINING K
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 ETERNITY
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 WICKER MAN
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 CRANK
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 WICKER MAN

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SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 AMERICAN HAUNTING
4 WICKER MAN

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 BINIBINING K
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 CRANK
5 WICKER MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 ETERNITY
8 MONSTER HOUSE

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BINIBINING K
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 BINIBINING K
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 CRANK
2 SNAKES A ON PLANE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 ETERNITY
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637081-85
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 CRANK
4 BINIBINING K
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 PENGUIN, PENGUIN

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 BINIBINING K
4 CRANK

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)534-1205-65
1 BINIBINING K
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 STORMBREAKER
3 CRANK
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
5 BINIBINING K
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 RESERVED
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 STAY ALIVE
6 MORTUARY
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 CRANK
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
5 STORMBREAKER
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STAY ALIVE

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HALE
OCTOBER 20, 2006
SM CENTERPOINT
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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE WICKER MAN • THX
12:00 2:20 4:40

2 RESERVED
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

4 CRANK
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

5 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 BINIBINING K
12:30 2:40 4:50

7 SCOOP
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

8 MONSTER HOUSE
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

9 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00

ERMITA 733-7808

1 CRANK
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
THE WICKER MAN
11:40 1:40 3:40 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 MONSTER HOUSE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

4 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

6 BINIBINING K
2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

7 SCOOP
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST

1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 YOU ARE THE ONE
1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

3 THE WICKER MAN
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

4 SCOOP
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

6 CRANK
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

7 MONSTER HOUSE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:00

8 RESERVE

NOVALICHES

1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 STAY ALIVE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

1 MIAMI VICE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 BINIBINING K

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1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
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1 CRANK
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CRANK
3 BINIBINING K
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 ETERNITY
5 SNAKE SON A PLANE
6 CRANK

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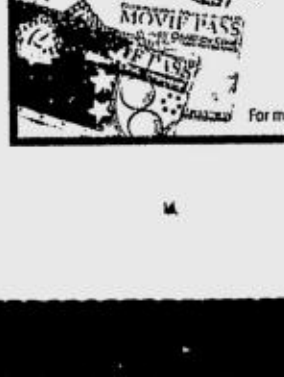
1 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 KISS KISS BANG BANG
5 MIAMI VICE
6 MORTUARY

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 STAY ALIVE
4 MORTUARY



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ROUNDUP

'Amazing'

STUDIO 23 AIRS the first episode of "The Amazing Race" Season 10 live via satellite at 8:30 a.m. today.

The season premiere, which runs for 90 minutes, will be replayed on prime time tonight at 7:30. Succeeding episodes will be aired Mondays.

This year, 12 teams will travel to 13 countries in 30 days in the hope of winning $1 million.

Each week, the teams will compete in a series of mental and physical challenges while facing the famed "roadblocks," "detours" and strategic moves by their competitors.

Showdown

Lucky winners of Jollibee's "Bee2Win sa Bituin Grand Showdown" promo get a special treat tomorrow when ABS-CBN stages the final showdown of its "Bituing Walang Ningning" *teleserye*.

Sarah Geronimo and Angelika dela Cruz will woo the audience—as their characters Dorina Pineda and Lavinia Arguelles—in a unique concert where a preview of how the series concludes will be shown.

Scenes from the showdown will be featured on the series finale in October.

'24' Season 5

The long-running action drama "24," now on its fifth season, airs at 9:10 p.m. Tuesdays on Studio 23, right after "Smallville."

The first 15 minutes of the new season premiere proves that nobody is safe in Jack Bauer's (Keifer Sutherland) world, with President David Palmer (Dennis Haysbert) and married CTU agents Tony Almeida (Carlos Bernard) and Michelle Dessler (Reiko Aylesworth) becoming the targets of assassination attempts.

A footage then surfaces pointing to Jack Bauer as President Pamler's assassination.

Crime dramas

The peaceful and quaint county of Midsomer is gripped by fear when slay incidents rock the place. The task to probe the mayhem falls into the hands of Chief Inspector Tom Barnaby (John Nettles) and Sergeant Gavin Troy (Daniel Casey). "Midsomer Murders" airs on all Fridays of October at 9 p.m. on Hallmark Channel.

"Wire in the Blood," based on the best-selling novels of Val McDermid, stars Robson Green as clinical psychologist Dr. Tony Hill and Hermione Norris as DCI Carol Jordan. The new season, premiering on October at 10 p.m., reunites the two for a series of compelling investigations involving the kidnap and killing of unhappy children, the hunt for a serial killer, brutal murders by an alleged schizophrenic and an anonymous sniper.

SHARON Cuneta

Mega keeps eye on indies

From page D1

the story that matters, she pointed out.

She is also eyeing the independent movement.

Great interest

"I was given the honor of singing a medley of beautiful movie theme songs as part of a tribute to the great (actor-director) Eddie Garcia at the Urian and I noticed that most of the nominated films and filmmakers and winners were from the indie scene. I also saw some of them guest on 'Korina Today' on the ANC and I suddenly had this great interest to support indie movies," she said.

She immediately texted host Korina Sanchez to ask the filmmakers for an appointment. "Then I realized the show was taped!"

Actually, she said, her interest in indies was not a spur-of-the-moment thing.

"It dates back to about 1996, when movies like 'Sling Blade' made a killing in the US box office and made it to the Oscars," she recalled. "It's just that now I have this urge to support these talented Filipinos. I would not think twice about starring in one, if offered a great story. And yes, at a fraction of my usual fee."

She'd be willing to produce the movie, in fact.

"(On Korina's show,) I saw one filmmaker say his movie cost about a million pesos," she recalled. "Maybe if it wasn't so expensive, I could finance or produce one or two. It just has to be a great story."

OPENS SEPTEMBER 20

Official Entry to the 2007 OSCAR® AWARDS
Best Foreign Language Film Category

Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maxim Oliveros
(THE BLOSSOMING OF MAXIMO OLIVEROS)
THE LITTLE BOY IS NOW A LADY.

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A Unitel Pictures / Unico Entertainment Release A ufo Pictures Production
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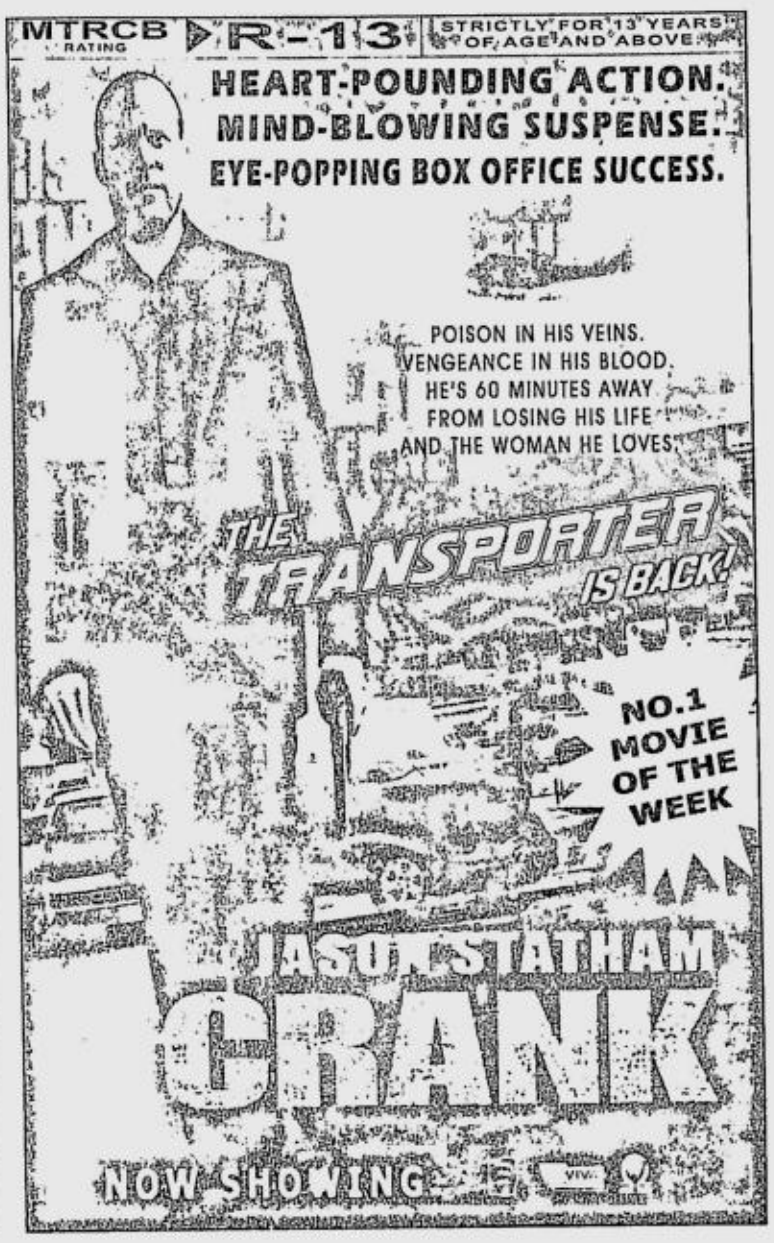
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40 PG-13
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 11:00
2 MONSTER HOUSE 1:55, 4:10, 6:25 G
YOU, ME & DUPREE 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
3 SCOOP 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35 PG-13
4 CRANK 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 R-13

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE



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AND THE WOMAN HE LOVES.
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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	3 BINIBINING K	4 YOU ARE THE ONE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CRANK	2 YOU, ME & DUPREE	3 THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE WICKER MAN	5 MONSTER HOUSE	6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	7 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SCOOP		2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 YOU, ME & DUPREE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CRANK GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS		2 SCOOP	
	3 CRANK	4 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	5 YOU, ME & DUPREE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 MONSTER HOUSE	2 YOU, ME & DUPREE	3 CRANK	4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 CRANK		2 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	
	3 BINIBINING K	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	

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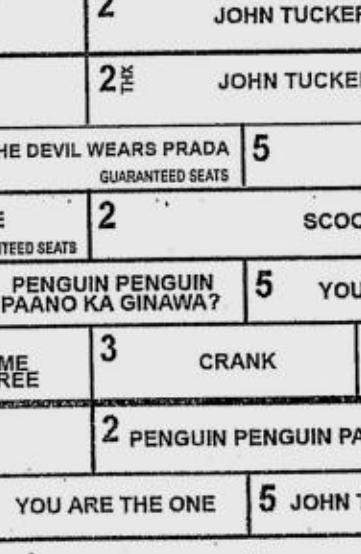
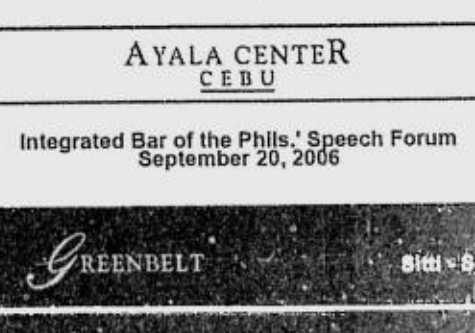
GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
PRA's Retail Careers & Services Job Fair September 18 to 19, 2006	Anson's Emporium September 10 to 24, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Integrated Bar of the Phils.' Speech Forum September 20, 2006	RX Cheer Dance Competition September 23, 2006

GREENBELT Samba Nights at GB 2 Sidi - September 27, 2006; Sofia - September 20
Onstage Repertory Philippines presents THE DOCTOR & THE PROPOSAL at REP's Globe Theater, September 16 to October 8, 2006 For inquiries, please call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM Ode To The Pasig River Extended until September 17, 2006 For inquiries, please call 757-0117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

Ayala Malls CINEMAS
15-22 September
Cinema 1, Greenbelt 3
18-19 September
UP Cine Adarna
20-21 September
Ayala Onstage
Ayala Center, Cebu



GREENBELT AYALA CENTER CEBU



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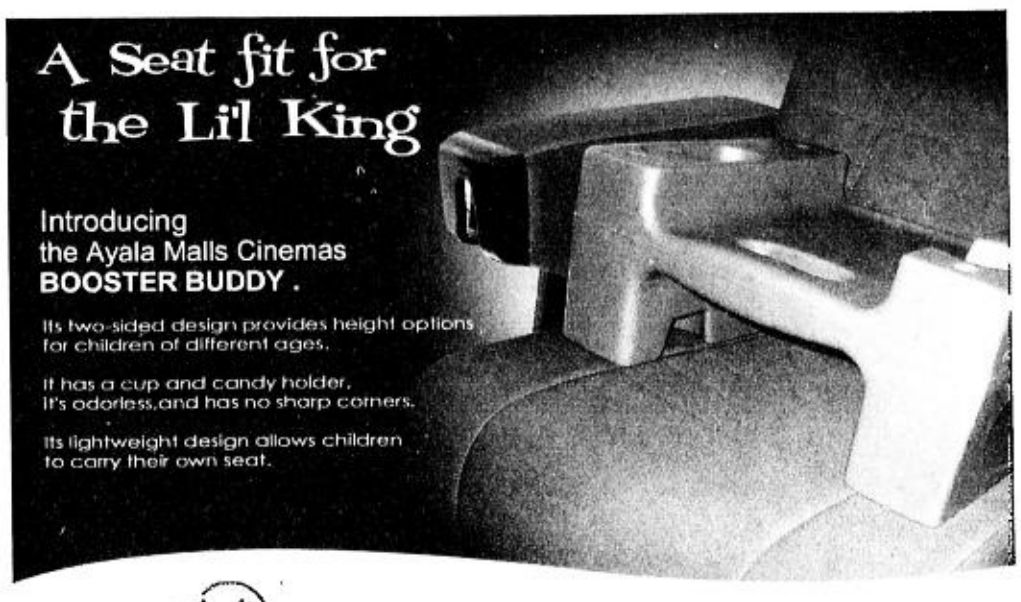
'Twilight Dancers,' uncut, available soon

From page D1



guys lead by centerfolds Marco Alcaraz, Victor Basa, Enchong Dee, Will Devaughn, Patrick Garcia, John Prats and Polo Ravales. Mark Herras, Zanjoe Marudo and TJ Trinidad were missing in action.

A naughty gay spectator commented, "Why *kaya wala sina* Papa Mark, Zanjoe and TJ? Busy *ba sila o nahihiya lang sila makipagsabayan rumampa sa ibang* models?" Wonder if they were bashful to join the bash.

Bumped into Mike Tan after the show. He hopes to be included in next year's centerfolds. I enjoyed the Cosmo bash immensely but it was too much eye candy for me.

Readers' corner

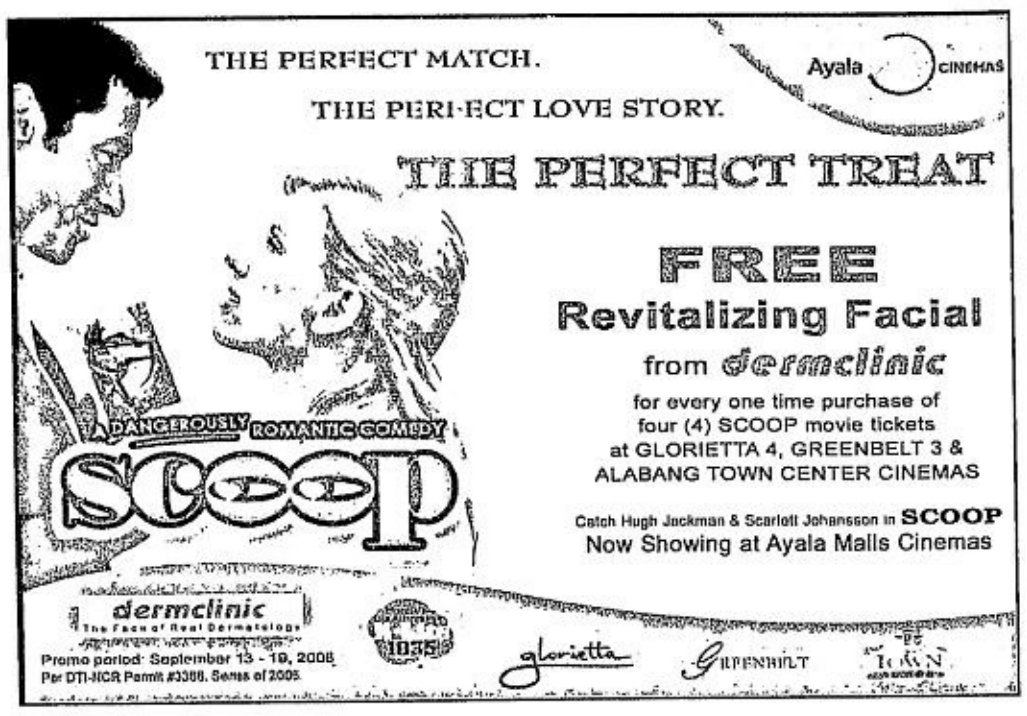
Hello Dolly,

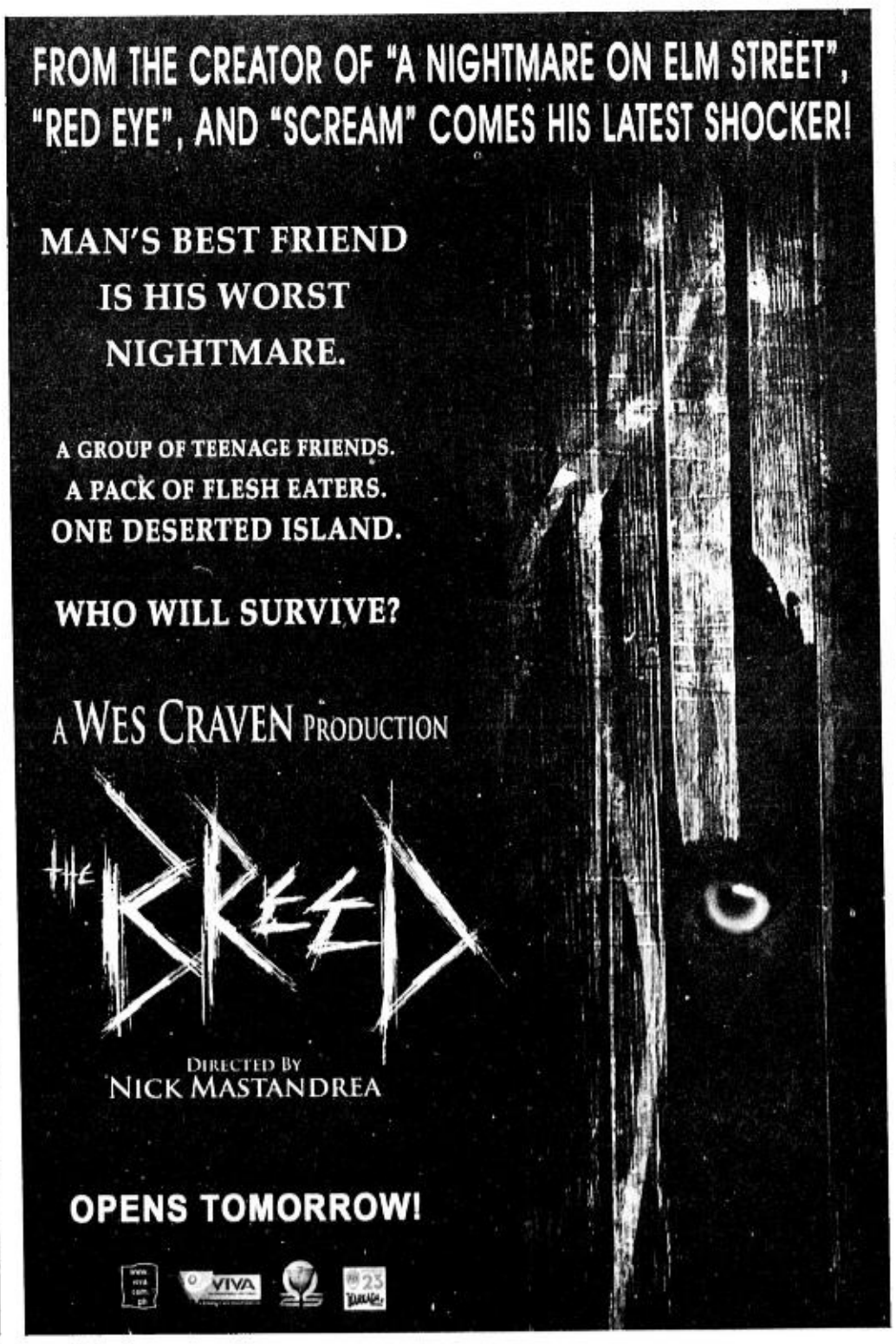
I am writing in defense of **Rachelle Ann Go** and her family regarding this nasty rumor about them being *maramot* and all those negative stuff allegedly relayed by a relative.

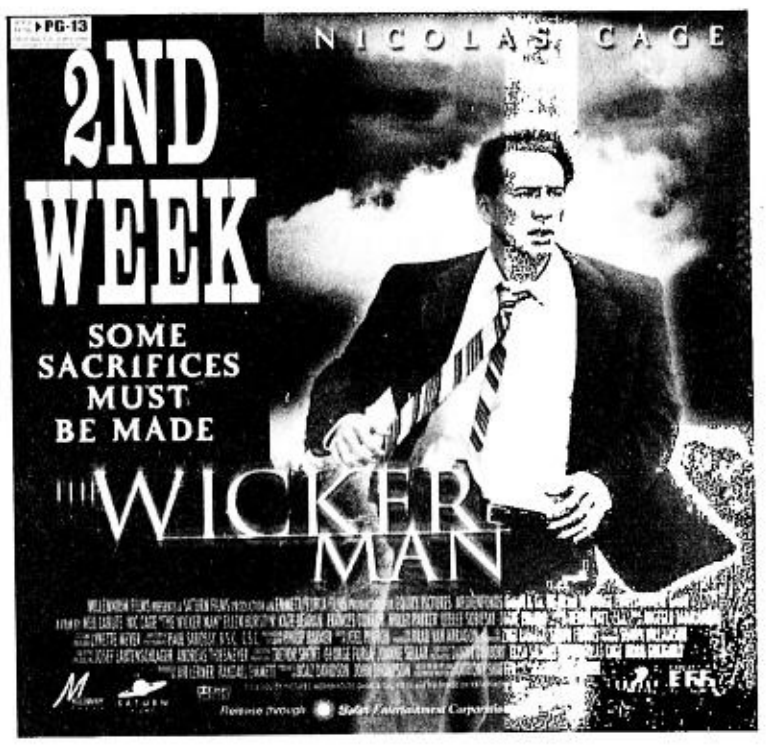
I am close to the Gos. There is no truth to the write-ups in tabloids that the attitude of the Go family have changed since Shin won the "Search for a Star." It is also foul that they refer to Tita Russ as "Japayuki." She did work in Japan but with a band. Shin is a strong lady. But as she said to us one time, *"Saktan at tirahin na lang ako, wag lang ang pamilya ko."*

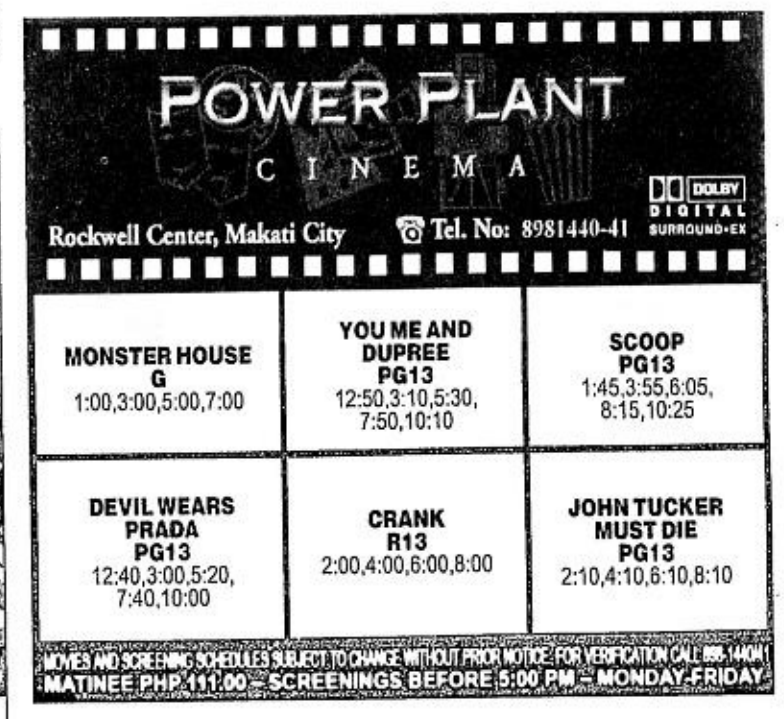
beverlyrobinns@yahoo.com

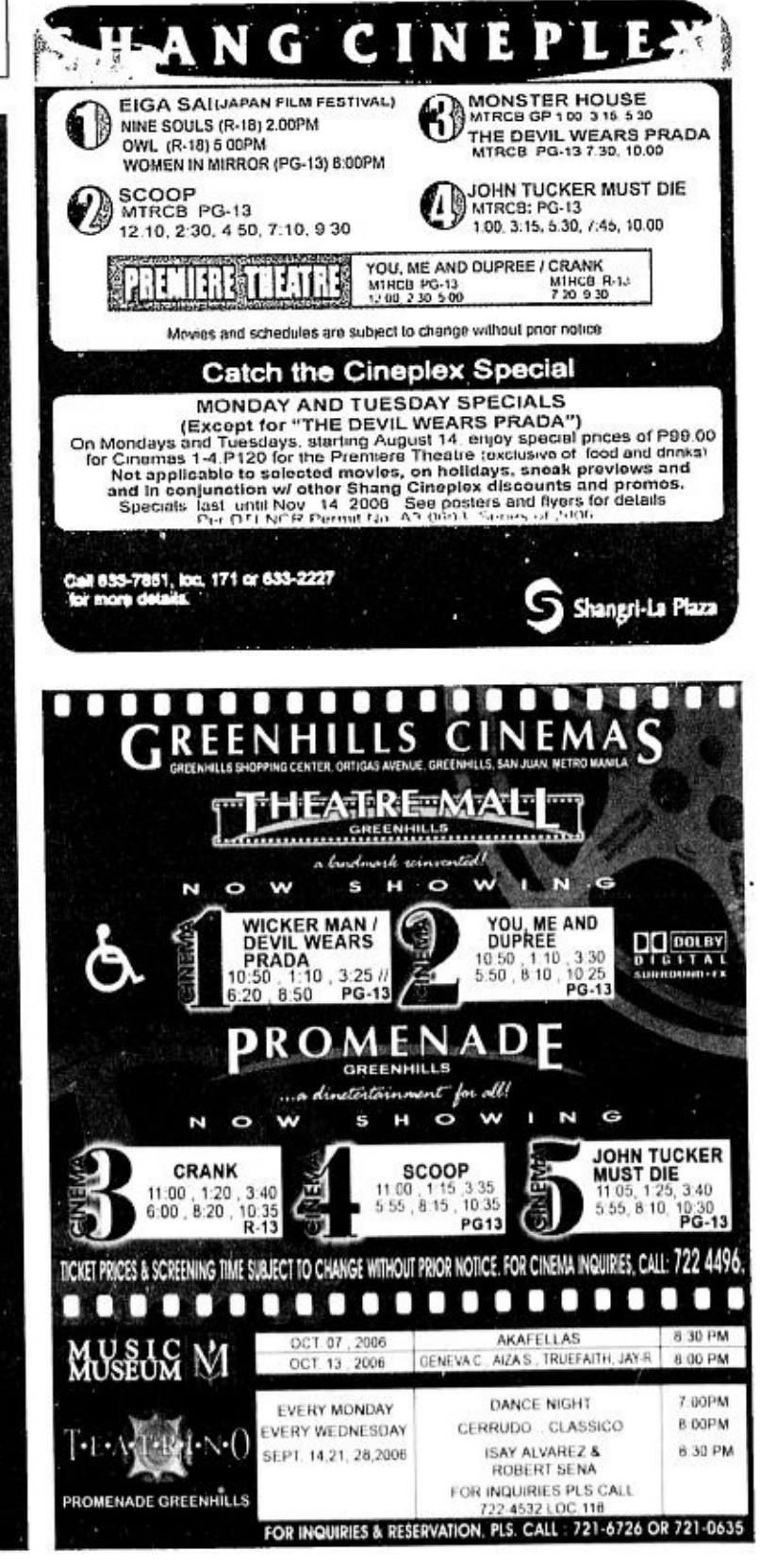
E-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com.











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YOU, ME AND DUPREE
CRANK

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Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
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2 JOHN TUKER MUST DIE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BINIBINING K

starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 BINIBINING K
4 THE WICKER MAN
5 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION

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2 FIERCE PEOPLE
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4 JOHN TUKER MUST DIE
5 SCOOP
6 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 CRANK
8 BINIBINING K
ETERNITY / PENGUIN-PENGUIN
10 YOU ARE THE ONE

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2 BINIBINING K
3 JON TUCKER MUST DIE
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Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
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Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 THE WICKER MAN

Jade Cinema
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3 MIAMI VICE

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2 NIGHT JOB
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3 WOLF CREEK
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2 BINIBINING K
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4 YOU ARE THE ONE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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2 KRISELDA

Maria Ressa's well-researched and instructive news special

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

We hope ABS-CBN releases it as a DVD package, complete with notes, for viewing in schools

WE THANK MARIA RESSA FOR HER TWO-hour special, "9/11—The Philippine Connection," which was telecast recently on Channel 2. The well-researched and instructive program gave viewers a detailed view of the country's key participation in the global terrorist network.

The special confirmed the fact that the Philippines was used as a staging and "rehearsal" point for terrorist initiatives that would bear full, evil fruit in the traumatic 9/11 attacks.

As early as the mid-'90s, the country was already the setting for international terrorist schemes like the planned assassination of **Pope John Paul II**, and bomb experts used a Manila apartment as their makeshift "laboratory" for preparing bombs that would escape detection while in transit.

Also significantly, as early as the mid-'90s, the "pioneering" terrorists had already arrived at a preference for aircraft-borne bombing schemes, a veritable fetish that would reap huge dividends for them in 2001, with the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks.

After establishing the early roots in the Philippines of the nascent terrorist movement under al Qaeda, ABS-CBN's two-hour special detailed how the movement grew exponentially all over the world, as its few pioneers attracted more advocates and trained many cadres in bomb-making procedures. Significantly, some of these training sessions were held in Mindanao.

Thus, the program depicted the Philippines not just as a staging and training ground, but as an exporter of newly trained and indoctrinated terrorists to other Asian countries, and to the rest of the world.

The special meticulously established the intricate web that linked different terrorist organizations all over the globe in a recondite but powerful network of evil that has terrorized and terrified many people, and now holds them in trembling thrall.

In a major way, the program has helped clarify and put in instructive context the complex warp and woof of the escalating terrorist threat, and we appreciate Ressa's hard work, perspicacity and insights.

On the other hand, the program lost some of its ability to engage the sustained attention and involvement of viewers because it was so heavily and even relentlessly narration-oriented.

After a while, it came off as a lecture, with Ressa as the dour professor, and the proceedings, while still most instructive, felt distanced and even abstract.

A more varied use of presentation techniques would have been welcome, particularly in the program's second half, when its welter of details in terms of recurring personalities and events weighed heavily on the viewer's ability to keep their progression and their complicating relationships in clear perspective.

Despite these and other encumbrances, "9/11—The Philippine Connection" is a vivid and valuable analysis of an important political phenomenon, and should be viewed especially by students.

We hope that ABS-CBN will see it fit to soon release the two-hour special as a complete DVD package, including background notes and accompanying charts and timelines, so it can be viewed and discussed in greater detail in schools.

Finally, we hope that Maria Ressa will put her vast resources to work on other important topics and issues that lesser broadcast lights have thus far failed to comprehensively address. A news special from her every six months would be exactly what the TV doctor ordered.

'Lucky Number Slevin'

THE BRUCE Willis starrer, "Lucky Number Slevin," has been described as a "stylish, sleek and fast-paced action film." Directed by **Paul McGuigan**, the film is now on video. Its other stars include **Josh Hartnett, Morgan Freeman, Ben Kingsley** and **Lucy Liu.**

'Radical Devotion'

AGAPE Christian Center's "Radical Devotion" album features **Janine D., Tom Lane** and **Anja Lehmann.** It has 12 beautiful worship tracks, plus music charts and chord and lyric sheets that can be printed for use on overhead projectors in church.

Agape Christian Center was established in Zurich, Switzerland in 1995. Its pastor, **Karen Cedergren,** is assisted by a leadership team that includes five Filipinos.

'Dilim'

RICA Peralejo topbills Cinema One Originals' action-packed thriller, "Dilim." Now on "digi-art video" VCD format, the film is about the *manananggal*, a vampire-like creature from Philippine folklore.

Dilim is a new breed of *manananggal* because he's a superhero who roams city streets to save innocent people from murderers and other criminals.

Conflict ensures when Dilim kills the brother of a notorious syndicate leader. Now, both the police and the hoodlums are after him! "Dilim" is directed by **Topel Lee** and also stars **Emilio Garcia** and **Mario Magalona.**

On NGC

EVERY Wednesday at 10 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Outbreak Investigation" focuses on the world's most baffling outbreaks of diseases. The true stories look at the emergence of these pathogens and how people make contact with them. The program also highlights the courage and sacrifice of intrepid epidemiologists who race against time to save lives.

Every Tuesday at 10 p.m., NGC telecasts "Hollywood Science." From car chases to disasters at sea, each episode of this series investigates the blockbuster version of this events, and compares them with realistic scenarios combined with scientific analysis.

SHOW TIME

Everything 'bout the Girl

GIRL Valencia RODEL ROTONI

Chanteuse has 3,000 songs in her repertoire

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

LOUNGE SINGER GIRL VALENCIA, ACCORDing to her friends, has about 3,000 songs stored in her head. Sure beats an iPod.

Girl, christened Teresa, regales music lovers at the Exchange Bar of Richmonde Hotel in Ortigas, Mandaluyong with a rich and varied repertoire that includes Cole Porter standards and Alan and Marilyn Bergman ballads.

When feeling more playful than usual, she can do jazzy versions of Yoyoy Villame's "Buchikik" and "Borutesu Faibu no Uta"—for the bewildered, that's the theme song of the Japanese anime "Voltes V"—at the drop of a hat.

The confident and casual stage manners, the cool yet expressive voice have undoubtedly been honed throughout her 13-year tour of the lounge circuit. This includes performances in venues patronized by upper-crust clientele—Manila Hotel's Tap Room, the Mandarin Oriental's Captain's Bar, Manila Peninsula's The Conservatory and Makati Shangri-La's Conways Bar.

For her early training, Girl credits mentor/pianist Joselito Pascual, whom she worked with at the Manila Hotel.

Old songs galore

Now, she collaborates with pianist Ferdie Borja. "I'm trying to master the shaker," she announces.

A regular at her old Sulo Hotel gigs was the late National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin.

"One night, he asked me to sing 'Someone to Watch Over Me' twice. So I did two different versions," she recounts.

Her affinity for old songs—some dating back to the 1930s and 1920s—can be traced to her youth, she explains. "As a kid, I listened to an AM station that played Ella Fitzgerald."

On the night of the INQUIRER visit, she sang the Bergmans' "So Many Stars" and "Like a Lover," along with Leopoldo Silos' "Dahil sa Isang Bulaklak" and Clair Marlo's "Till They Take My Heart Away."

How does she explain her extraordinary repertoire? "I appreciate different kinds of songs because I'm a songwriter myself."

In fact, she has written pop songs for Jeffrey Hidalgo, Nino Alejandro and Regine Velasquez.

This Communications graduate from Ateneo and former newscaster also won the Unesco Peace Prize of Excellence in 1995 for the song "Breaking Barriers."

For her debut album "Girl: Driftwood Traveling," she created eight songs, among them "Driftwood," "Underground River," "Sunrise," "Sisters," among others.

INQUIRER founding chair and 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts Eugenia Duran-Apostol has followed Girl since the Tap Room days, and is said to like "Driftwood" very much.

Girl's CD is released by Isla-Candid, a UK-based jazz label. Candid Philippines boasts a stellar lineup—Mon David, Mischka Adams and Isha.

With this album, the world may finally find Girl.

D'SOUND

D'Sound Manila tour

World-renowned Norweigian trio D'Sound will arrive in Manila for their "My Today" album promo tour on Sept. 21. Simone (vocals), Jonny (bass) and Kim (drums) will be perform at SM Mall of Asia's main mall on Sept. 22 at 6 p.m.

The D'Sound promo tour is sponsored by Universal Records and Rado Watches of Switzerland.

The group figured prominently in worldwide charts with their hit songs "Do I Need A Reason," "Talkin' Talk," "People Are People" and "Tatooed On My Mind."

The new album features the tracks "Green Eyes," "My Today," "Universally," "Feel Again," and "Birthday," featuring Tony Momrelle from Incognito plus three bonus tracks and acoustic live version of "Tattoed On My Mind."

A night with Sitti

Lovers of bossa nova music can look forward to a night of music with Sitti, who re-introduced the genre to the local scene. Dubbed as "Sitti…Close to You," the show, in cooperation with Kuh Ledesma Presents and the Music Museum, is set on Oct. 7 and 13, 8:30 p.m. at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City. Sitti will perform an all-new repertoire and some of the most requested songs from her successful debut album and gigs.

SITTI

Ticket prices are P2,000 for lower orchestra, P1700 for upper orchestra and 1000 for balcony. Call 750-8888 local 2446.

Joe Mari Chan for a cause

Jose Mari Chan is lending his voice and music for the benefit of poverty-stricken Filipino children.

On Oct. 21, Chan returns to the Meralco Theater for the fund-raising project, "Concert for a Cause," with Jamie Rivera.

Proceeds will go to the Holy Trinity Home for Children.

Chan, who is also an industrialist and philanthropist, has held highly successful concerts here and abroad for humanitarian purposes. He has written and composed hundreds of songs since his first song, "Afterglow," was aired in 1964.

Call 2940681 or 2911599.

JOSE Mari Chan

'Burn, Baby, Burn'

Burn music and lifestyle magazine is hosting a big concert-party on Sept. 28, 5 p.m., at the Music Hall of the SM Mall of Asia.

The event, titled "Burn, Baby, Burn," officially launches the magazine. Onstage action will be provided by reggae artists, and rock 'n' roll bands, soul singers and spoken-word performers, jazz hounds and bossa nova beauties.

Among these featured stars are:

Bamboo, Orange and Lemons, Imago, Barbie Almalbis, Pupil, Sitti, Sugarfree, Hemp Republic, Up dharma Down, Radioactive Sago Project, Spy, Johnny Alegre, Itchyworms, Hale, Sino Sikat?, Nina, Kamikazee, 6CycleMind, Chillitees and Moonstar88.

Get in for free by presenting the August-September issue of Burn with Gary Valenciano/ Red Hot Chili Peppers on the cover.

Today

Fatbabes and Vice Ganda at Mugen Bar. Call 637-4089.

Johnoy and Kakoy at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Silk and Steel at Merk's Greenbelt 3

Tropical Depression at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Sept. 19

Jeremiah and Mocha at Mugen Bar. Call 637-4089.

Lolita Carbonof Asin at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's Greenbelt 3

Brass Munkeys at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

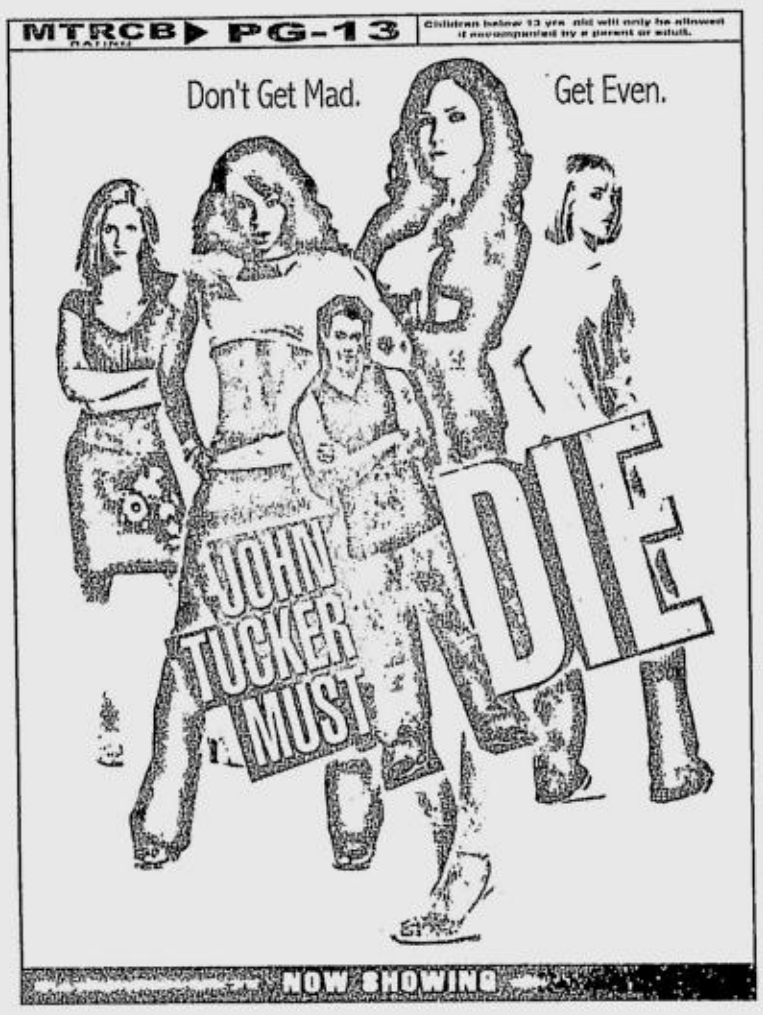
Sept. 20

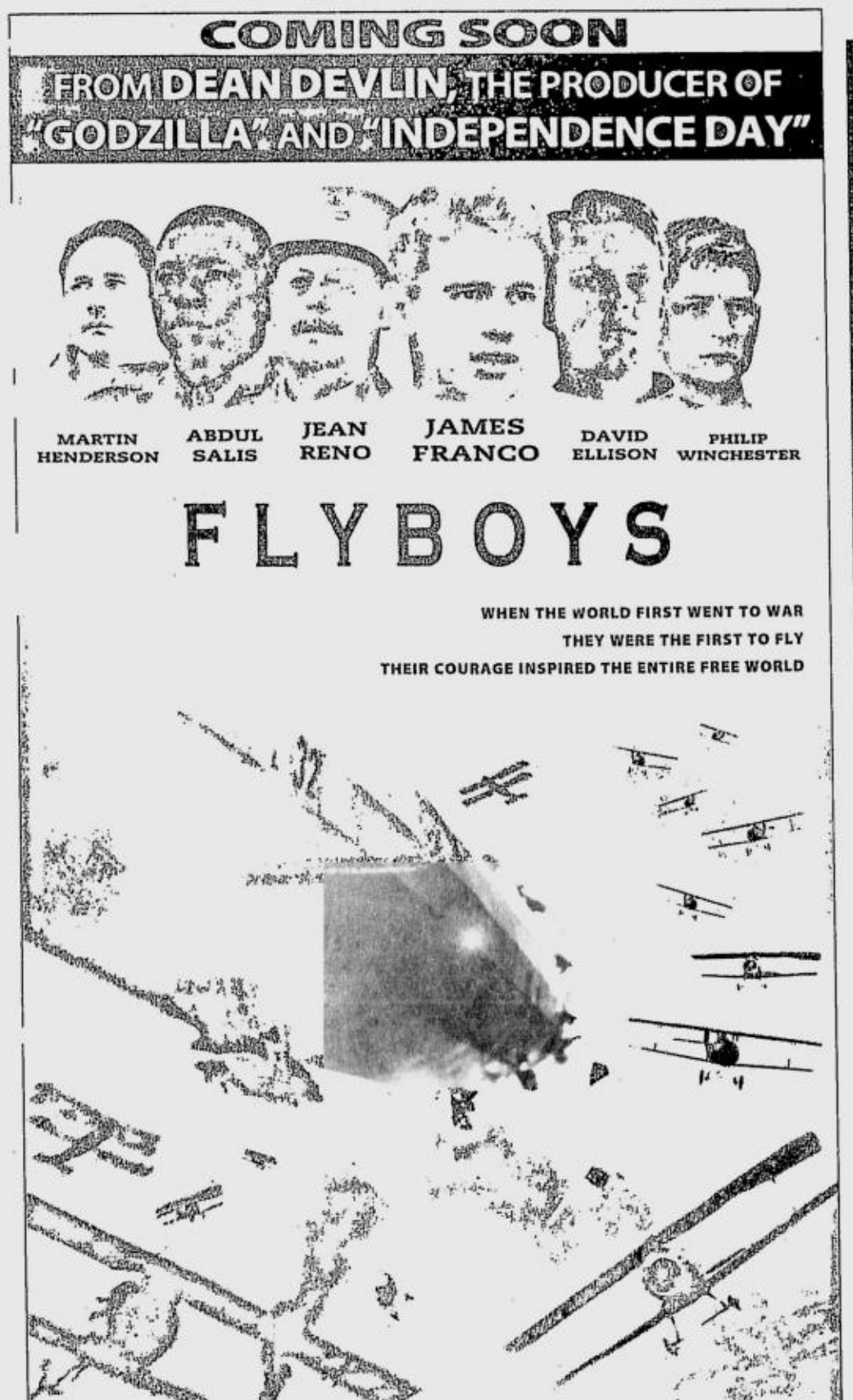
The Members and Zyncxation at Mugen Bar. Call 637-4089.

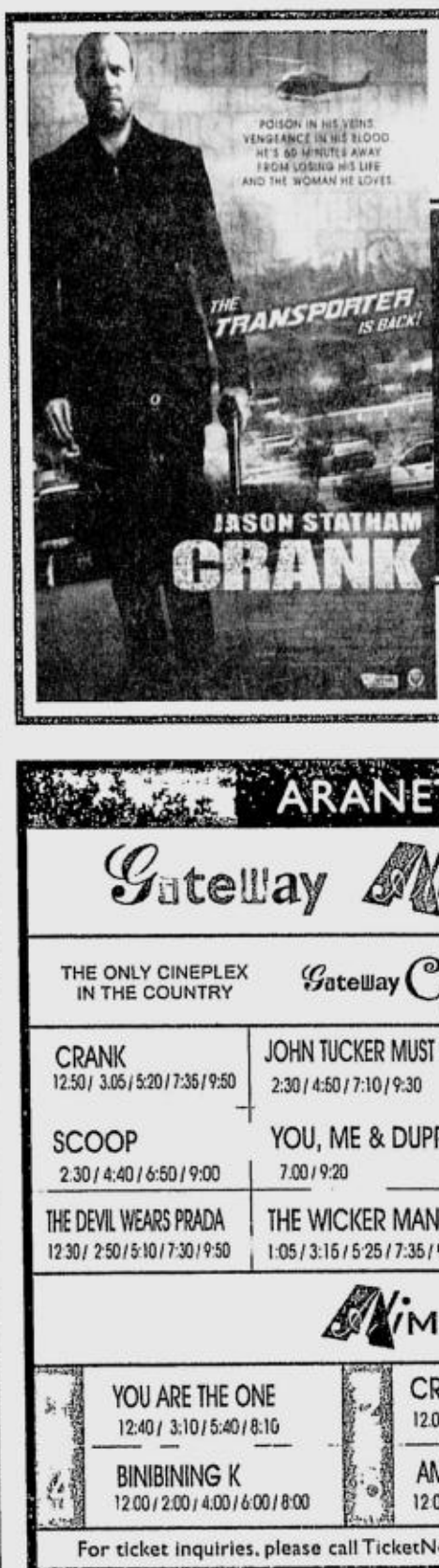
Up Dharma Down at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Richard Merk, Eddie Katindig and Judith Banal at Merk's Greenbelt 3

Side A at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3







now showing at Robinsons Movieworld

Chev Chelios is about to begin his morning with an unexpected wake-up call. Groggy, practically unable to move and with a heart that's barely beating, he hears the voice of thug Ricky Verona who reveals Chev has been poisoned in his sleep and only has an hour to live.

As it turns out, Chev is a hit man who freelances for a major West Coast syndicate. A run of the mill job the night before instead went awry; he let his target slip away in an effort to quit professional killing and start a new life with his girlfriend Eve.

Now, Chev must keep moving to stay alive; the only way to prolong the poison from stopping his heart is to keep his adrenaline flowing. As the clock ticks, Chelios cuts a swath through the streets of Los Angeles, wreaking havoc on those who dare stand in his way. He must rescue Eve from danger, stay two steps ahead of his nemeses and search for an antidote to save his own life.

MTRCB Rating: R-13

For SCREENING SCHEDULE, pls call our CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555 or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

ARANETA CENTER

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SCOOP 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	YOU, ME & DUPREE 7:00 / 9:20	MONSTER HOUSE 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00	
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	THE WICKER MAN 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	BINIBINING K 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00

MALL 5

YOU ARE THE ONE 12:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10	CRANK 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25	THE WICKER MAN 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
BINIBINING K 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00	AMERICAN DREAMZ 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:25 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL DTS SDDS

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ARANETA COLISEUM

BITUING WALANG NINGNING - GRAND SHOWDOWN — September 19, Tuesday 7 pm

Sept 20, Wednesday NCAA FINALS Game 2 — 2pm PCU vs SSC-R Jrs / 4pm PCU vs SBC Srs

ACROSS / A15

MILF talks tough, says it's ready for new war

BUSINESS / B1

String of good news lifts peso to 50.12 : $1

METRO / A21

Star City amusement park shut down by Pasay City gov't

WORLD / A24

Vatican launches diplomatic offensive in Muslim countries

Antiabsenteeism lawmaker a no-show

By Philip C. Tubeza

TALK ABOUT ABSENteeism.

A ranking lawmaker who had called for a congressional inquiry into the chronic absenteeism of House members was

ANTIABSENTÉEISM/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, September 20, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 284 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Guimaras execs banking on London-based oil fund

By Hazel P. Villa and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL officials of Guimaras are banking on the London-based International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPCF) to indemnify residents of the province affected by the oil spill, especially

GUIMARAS/ A18

Marcos victims' hopes boosted

US ruling may lead to award of $35M

HONOLULU—A LAWyer for human rights victims of the Ferdinand Marcos regime said she was optimistic a federal appeals court's refusal to rehear the case will finally lead to the awarding of $35 million in Marcos money being held in Honolulu.

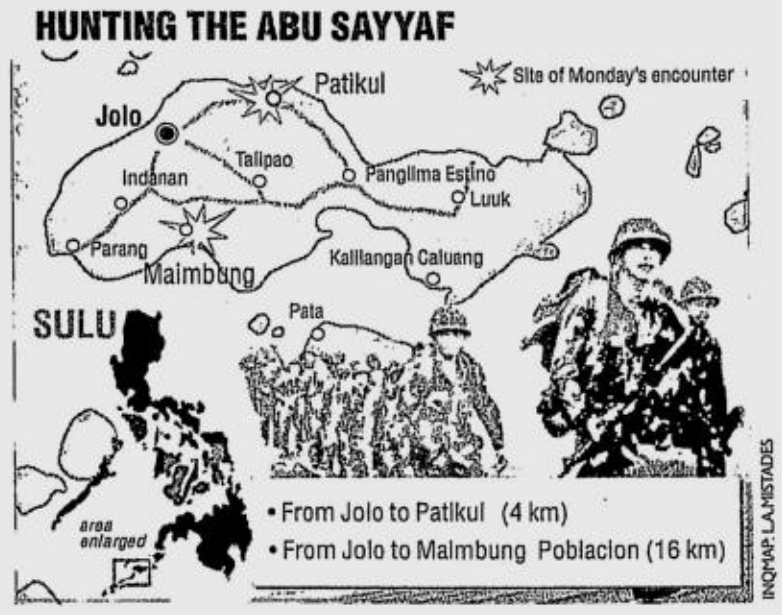
Sherry P. Broder, representing 9,500 victims who hope to collect the recovered Marcos wealth, said she received formal notice on Monday that the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals on Sept. 12 had rejected Philippine government motions to rehear the case.

The court said that none of its more than 30 judges had been persuaded by the Philippine position that the court had erred in its May decision to disburse the money to those who had suffered under a US-backed regime that carried out summary executions, disappearances and torture.

The court referred to Marcos as "a rough and rapacious ruler, who often exercised arbitrary power."

MARCOS VICTIMS'/ A19

US MARINES accused of rape, (from left) Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith and Keith Silkwood, arrive at the Makati court for their trial yesterday. JAMES BARR/CONTRIBUTOR



Marine officer killed, 21 soldiers wounded in latest Jolo clashes

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao
and Dona Pazzibugan

ZAMBOANGA CITY—ONE MArine officer was killed and 21 others were wounded in fresh gun battles between soldiers and the Abu Sayyaf on Jolo island, as President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday claimed government troops were "on the verge" of wiping out the terrorist group.

The latest government casualties, sustained in fighting on Monday, brought to 16 the number of soldiers killed and to more than 60 the number of those wounded in the nearly two-month-long military manhunt for the top Abu Sayyaf leaders in the Sulu archipelago.

In one of Monday's three clashes, a Marine junior officer was killed during an encounter between government forces and heavily armed ASG bandits in Barangay Tugas in Patikul.

The military declined to release the officer's name but said he belonged to the special operations platoon of the Marine Battalion Landing Team.

Five other soldiers were wounded in another clash also in Patikul while 16 soldiers from the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion were hurt in a heavy firefight with the Abu Sayyaf in Maimbung town.

The military said dozens of

MARINE/ A18

US Marine says 'Nicole' a professional, not a victim

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ONE OF THE FOUR US MARINES on trial in the Subic rape case yesterday took the stand and said that he saw the Filipino complainant as "a professional" rather than a victim.

Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier testified that while he had the "moral conscience" to assist any woman in danger, he felt that "Nicole" did not need any help when she got off a rented van in partial undress on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

"You are assuming that I viewed [the complainant] as a victim. I viewed her as a professional preying on the vulnerability of [Lance Cpl. Daniel] Smith at the time," Carpentier said under State Prosecutor Elizabeth Berdal's cross-examination at Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139.

Berdal later said in an interview after the hearing: "We have shown his being judgmental and prejudiced toward Filipino women."

Earlier in his testimony, when the prosecutor asked him about his moral conscience, Carpentier said: "First of all, I am a father of a daughter myself, so at any time I felt a female was in harm's way, you could bet your bottom dollar that [I would help her]."

The 28-year-old Marine revealed what he thought of Nicole in reply to Berdal's question on why he, the most senior of the Marines in the van, "did not lift a finger" to help the complainant upon seeing her "in a state of undress" on the night of the purported rape.

Nicole had accused Smith of raping her while she was drunk in the moving van at the Subic Bay Freeport as Carpentier, Smith's superior, and two other lance corporals, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis, egged him on.

US MARINE/ A10

Gunmen in bonnets kill another activist

By Joanna Los Baños
Inquirer Southern Luzon

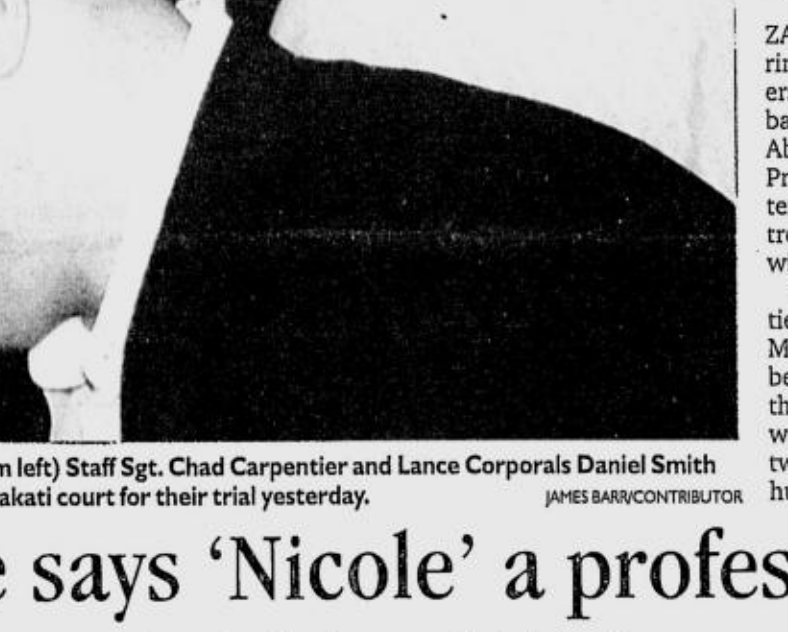
LEGAZPI CITY—GUNMEN WEARing bonnets, black shirts and combat boots struck amid the outcry against extrajudicial executions, killing peasant leader Christopher Lunar, police said.

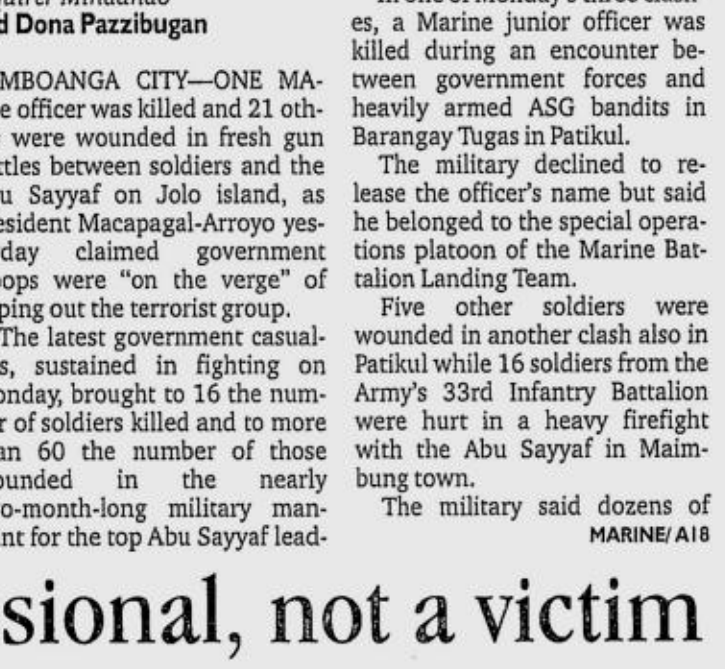
The 31-year-old Lunar, local coordinator of the party-list group Anakpawis, became the 251st fatality in attacks on leftwing militants since President Macapagal-Arroyo became Chief Executive in 2001, according to an INQUIRER count. Leftist groups put the number at 720, the police at over 100.

Anakpawis members accounted for 33 of the fatalities.

The report of the attack came as protesters marched in the cities of

GUNMEN/ A19





A DAY AT CAMP DARAPANAN
Muslim children (above) prepare to eat a breakfast of "pandesal" and rice cakes in a canteen in Camp Darapanan, a known refuge of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). At right, Sadako Ogata, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), walks outside the camp, after her visit with Muslim rebel leaders on Monday in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao. Ogata said she hopes the peace talks between the government and the MILF will succeed. *(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A15.)* JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

WB says RP gaining in war against poverty

By Doris C. Dumlao

SINGAPORE—THE PHILIPPINES has made progress in poverty reduction along with the rest of East Asia, with the number of Filipinos living on less than $1 a day declining to 9 million, or 10.8 percent of the population, as of end-2005 from 12 million or 13.5 percent of the population in 2000, according to a new World Bank report.

Living on less than $1 a day is an international benchmark for measuring poverty across countries.

The report, "An East Asian Renaissance: Ideas for Growth," authored by Homi Kharas, World Bank chief economist for East Asia and the Pacific, and economic adviser Indermit Gill was launched at the joint International Monetary Fund-World Bank annual meetings here.

It noted that the region had championed poverty reduction since the turn of the decade. But despite the region's success in reducing poverty, urgent challenges like inequality, social cohesion,

WORLD BANK/ A19

Senior cop arrested for PDEA shabu rob

By Alcuin Papa

A SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL and three other people have been arrested for allegedly stealing P35 million worth of shabu from an evidence room, in what police said was a wider conspiracy involving other officers.

Two other police officers are now the targets of a manhunt, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said yesterday.

The theft of seven kilos of shabu stored at PDEA headquarters in Quezon City occurred during a power blackout.

PDEA Deputy for Administration Rodolfo Caisip confirmed that the Aug. 21 break-in was an inside job.

"We are still investigating the case and we are pursuing other PDEA personnel who might have participated in the break-in," Caisip said in a phone interview. "Definitely, there was a conspiracy here and we will not stop with these suspects."

Caisip identified the arrested officer as Supt. Jerome Mutia, former deputy of the PDEA Special Enforcement Service.

Also in custody were Insp. Jofredo Padillo, formerly with the

SENIOR/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/19/06

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Change your mind, SC asked

By Armand N. Nocum
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SUPREME COURT CAN CHANGE ITS MIND, pro-Charter change groups said yesterday.

In a reply filed with the high court rebutting the claim of anti-Charter change groups that the tribunal had no power to reexamine and change its ruling in Santiago v Comelec—or the inadequacy of a people's initiative to amend the Constitution—pro-Cha-cha groups Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) said the court would be within its rights to change its decision.

Sigaw and Ulap asked the court to junk the arguments of intervenors OneVoice, Alternative Law Groups and lawyer Pete Quadra who had questioned the tribunal's power to revisit its 1997 ruling.

In their 88-page consolidated reply, Sigaw and Ulap said "there are no irrepealable decisions, in the same way that there are no irrepealable laws and constitution."

Raul Lambino and Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, Sigaw spokesperson and Ulap president, respectively, said the Supreme Court can abandon a previous ruling and come up with a new one because its rulings are not permanent and the justices, depending on the facts of a case, can reverse them.

"The Supreme Court can overturn its rulings on previous cases, including its 1997 decision on the people's initiative case," Lambino said in an interview, referring to Republic Act No. 6735, or the Initiative and Referendum Act of 1989, which the tribunal had ruled was inadequate when it came to a people's initiative to change the Constitution.

"Besides, the SC did not declare the Initiative Act unconstitutional. If it had been declared void or unconstitutional, the SC cannot reexamine it since it would no longer exist," Lambino and Aumentado said.

Sigaw and Ulap pointed out the Supreme Court's 1997 ruling did not declare RA 6735 unconstitutional but that a split majority of justices at the time believed the enabling law was insufficient to implement the initiative system.

The two groups brought the issue before the high court after the Commission on Elections junked their people's initiative petition, citing the high court's ruling.

The Senate, meanwhile, has formally decided to counter the people's initiative petition of Sigaw and Ulap before the Supreme Court.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, a noted human rights lawyer and former executive secretary and congressman, will argue the case for the chamber.

Pacifico Agabin, former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law, will join Arroyo as Senate counsel of record, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said.

The Senate, in a resolution unanimously adopted Monday night, decided to intervene in the special civil action filed by in the Supreme Court by Sigaw and Ulap on Sept. 1.

The two groups also asked the high court to schedule a plebiscite on the proposed shift to a parliamentary system of government within 90 days.

The Senate said that as an institution, it had "actual and material interest in the subject matter of the petition and would be irreparably prejudiced if the petition is granted."

The proposed amendments would abolish the Senate in favor of a unicameral parliament.

ANTI-CHA-CHA groups Laban ng Masa, Bayan, Black and White Movement, UNO and EDSA 3 forces hold a meeting at Club Filipino in Greenhills in preparation for the mobilization on Sept. 21, the 34th anniversary of the declaration of martial law. RAFFY LERMA

Where's Cha-cha money coming from? Nene asks

By TJ Burgonio

SENATE MINORITY LEADER AQUILINO PIMENTEL Jr. has called for an investigation into where the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) has been getting the money to bankroll its costly campaign in support of the people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

In a privilege speech yesterday, Pimentel called on the appropriate Senate committee to probe Ulap for the source of its funds that have been paying for the series of print ads harping on the wisdom of amending the Constitution, in order to draw up measures to guard against the misuse of public funds.

Ulap is composed of local government officials from governors to councilors from all over the country.

"Clearly, somebody is funding the advertisements and, therefore, if we can locate the source, please render an accounting as to where the money has come from," he told his colleagues.

The senator said the series of print ads run by Ulap and the people's organization, Sigaw ng Bayan, in major broadsheets and tabloids from June to September could cost over P100,000 each. The print ads were on top of the commercials on radio and TV, which are costlier, he said.

"We can only guess the amount that is being spent for those advertisements. The local governments, especially Ulap, are receiving billions of pesos in government funds going into their coffers," he said, referring to the internal revenue allotment (IRA) distributed to local government units by the national government.

Libel cases 'outrageous'

A TOP OFFICIAL OF AN INTERNATIONAL media group has expressed shock at reports that at least 42 journalists are currently facing libel charges filed by Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, the lawyer-husband of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a statement e-mailed yesterday, Christopher Warren, president of the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), said the figures are "outrageous," considering how "a man of considerable influence and power, can try and hinder free speech by suing journalists into submission."

The figures represent the highest number of libel charges filed by a single person.

"President Arroyo has a responsibility to her people to decriminalize defamation immediately and ensure that journalists cannot be subject to such horrendous jail terms and ludicrous fines," Warren said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Senate without a prisoner now

By TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa

WITH THE CHAIR OF THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government Camilo Sabio out on a 24-hour medical furlough, the Senate is momentarily without a prisoner.

But possibly not for long as it has sent its forces out on a nationwide hunt for four PCGG commissioners and five Philcomsat Holdings Corp. executives for defying its authority and snubbing its inquiry into the supposed losses of sequestered companies.

There will be even more detainees to satisfy the senators if four officials of the Professional Regulation Commission and the National Bureau of Investigation decide to snub another Senate hearing, this time into the scandal-tainted 2006 nursing licensure examinations.

Sabio was taken to the Makati Medical Center for a "long-scheduled" executive checkup at about 9 a.m. yesterday. During the 24-hour duration of the checkup, beginning at 1 p.m. yesterday, he is to be under the constant watch of two Senate policemen.

Sabio, 70, whose blood pressure has been fluctuating since he was arrested last Tuesday, is expected to be escorted back to the Senate this afternoon. He will appear at a Supreme Court hearing on his petition for habeas corpus tomorrow.

Jose Balajadia, the Senate sergeant at arms, said he was "hot on the trail" of the PCGG commissioners and the PHC executives and was expanding the manhunt to areas outside Metro Manila where some of them are said to be in hiding.

He said he expected approval today of his request for help from the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement agencies for the expanded manhunt.

"I would suggest that these people come in, because there are many agencies that will be looking for them," Balajadia said.

Facing arrest are commissioners Ricardo Abcede, Nicasio Conti, Tereso Javier and Narciso Nario and PHC executives Benito Araneta, chair; Philip Brodett, director and vice president; Manuel Andal, treasurer; and Julio Jalandoni and Luis Lokin, directors.

PRC Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero and commissioners Renato Valdecantos and Avelina de la Rea, as well as Elfren Meneses Jr., the NBI antifraud and computer crimes division chief, are also in danger of being cited in contempt and ordered arrested by the Senate for snubbing a hearing of the civil service and government reorganization committee hearing.

"If they do not attend, we will arrest them," said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, acting committee chair.

Araneta was part of the delegation of President Macapagal-Arroyo in her nine-day, five-nation trip to Europe and the Americas. He is expected to arrive this week and would appear at the next hearing, said lawyer Serafin Cuevas. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Water rates take a plunge

By Christine A. Gaylican

THANKS TO THE APPRECIATING PESO, Manila's water concessionaires will reduce water rates by eight to 10 centavos per cubic meter in October.

Customers serviced by the Maynilad Water Services Inc. (west zone) and by the Manila Water Company Inc. (east zone) will enjoy cheaper rates starting next month.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) is set to approve MWCI's proposed adjustment from 16 centavos to 24 centavos per cubic meter or a drop of eight centavos.

The MWSI, meanwhile, is looking at a 10-centavo reduction from its current 22 centavos to 12 centavos per cubic meter.

The Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) is a tariff mechanism used by utility companies to recover losses if the peso depreciates or if it appreciates against foreign currencies.

The FCDA adjustment would be based on the peso-dollar exchange rate of P50.68 during the period of May to July 2006 and P51.82 in February 2006.

An unsewered household in the east zone consuming 30 cubic meters of water would have a discount of about P6 from its monthly bill of P320.77.

100 years needed for a 10th of RP corals to recover

By Blanche S. Rivera

IT WILL TAKE A HUNDRED years to replenish a tenth of the country's damaged coral reefs, according to a marine scientist specializing on coral reef ecology.

At the rate the Philippines is establishing marine protected areas (MPA), which facilitate the rehabilitation of coral reefs, it could take up to 2101 to manage 10 percent of the country's reef areas, said Porfirio Aliño, coordinator of the MPA Support Network in the Philippines.

The Philippines, dubbed as the center of marine biodiversity in the world, has 17,000 sq km of coral reefs. According to a World Bank report, only five percent of the reefs are in excellent condition while the rest are either threatened or critical.

"Based on the trend in the establishment of MPAs, it could take up to 2101 to effectively manage the reefs. Of course, if people suddenly put up more marine sanctuaries, it could be sooner than that [2101]," Aliño said in an interview.

He noted an increasing number of MPAs as awareness was raised among fishing-dependent communities and local government units. From some 50 MPAs in the 1970s, the number rose to 200 in the 1980s and around 500 today.

Conservationists have branded the MPAs as mere paper parks, but according to Aliño, there has been an absolute improvement, with about 30 percent of the MPAs now managed and regularly patrolled.

He said local government leaders whose municipalities still had not allocated a portion of their municipal waters to an MPA should learn to explain to fisher folks the benefits of having "no-take zones" or areas where fishing, exploration and other activities are prohibited to allow the recovery of the reefs and other marine resources.

"The main impediment is people feel that if they allocate for MPAs, they will lose their livelihood. This [is not true] and the mayors should explain this to them," Aliño said, citing the country's 900 coastal municipalities.

He said the areas near the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea had the least MPAs, but the trend was changing.

"We have to be able to motivate people continuously... There are many communities with low resources who are doing it (establishing MPAs), so it's really a question of being convinced [of its benefits]," he said.

A good reef can support up to 20 tons of fish per sq km but a poor or depleted reef can do only give about 5 tons, according to Aliño.

The government and the MPA Support Network composed of 12 non-government organizations were developing an institutionalized standard for rating MPAs in the country.

This should be in effect by late next year, along with a database of all marine parks in the country, Aliño said.

PACHECO

'Rebuilding must be on moral ground'

PROMINENT PEACE and change advocate Nandy Pacheco has urged business and community leaders to help rebuild the Philippines on strong moral ground.

In a speech to the Rotary Club of Makati at the Peninsula Hotel yesterday, Pacheco, president of Ang Kapatiran, said Filipinos must revolutionize themselves in order to reform their world.

In his address that turned on the fundamental changes that Ang Kapatiran will introduce to the country's body politic, Pacheco lashed out at "celebrity politics, the politics of pork barrel, hypocrisy, dishonesty, deception, electoral chicanery, patronage, payoffs, unprincipled compromises, political dynasties, and the politics of guns, goons and gold."

In their place, he said, the Philippines is in dire need of "responsible authority." This means authority exercised by people who are able to make the common good, and not prestige or personal advantage, the true goal of their work.

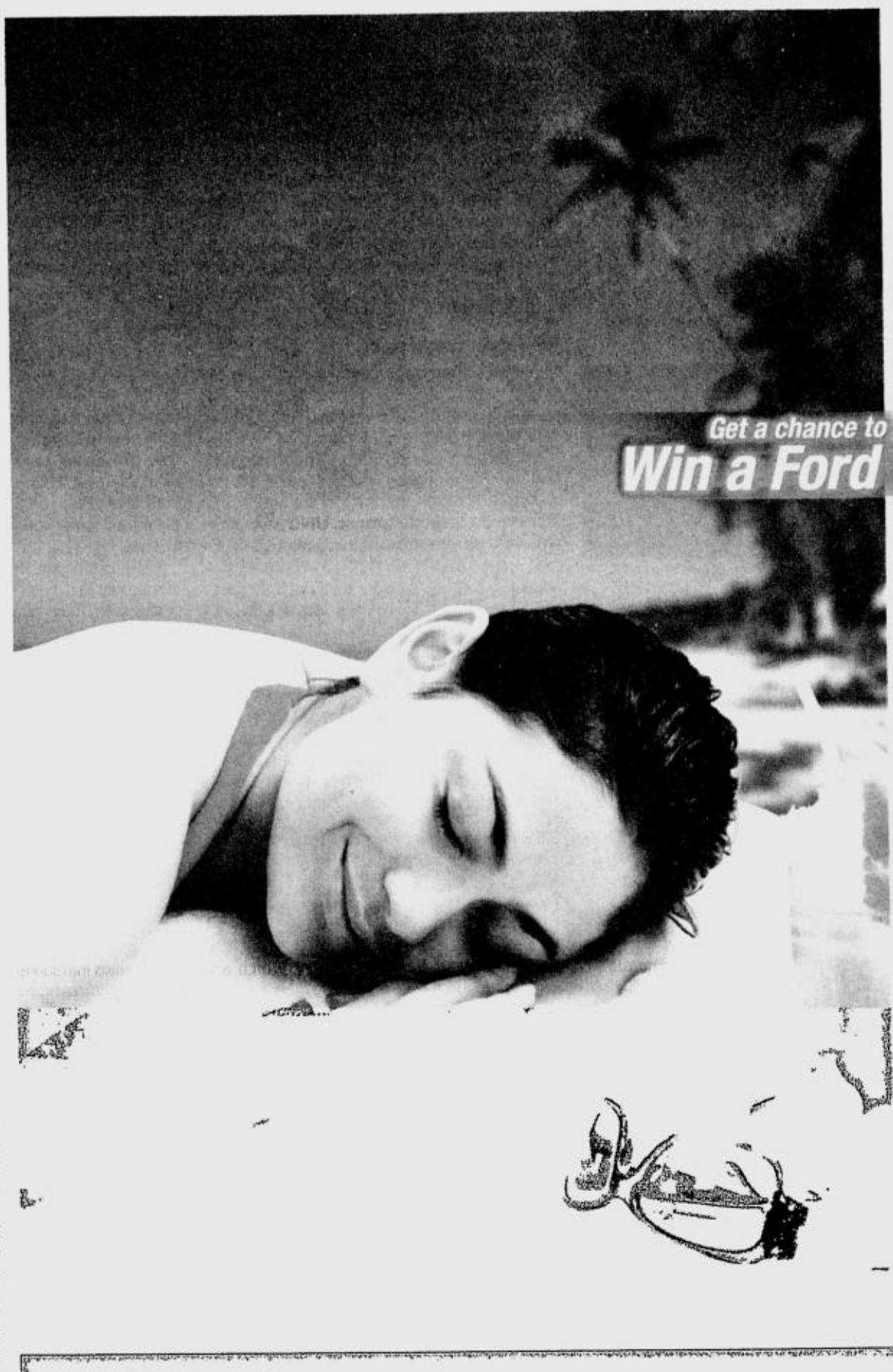
What would bring this about, he said, is an entirely new political approach, embodied in a new political party founded on strong moral principles and committed to translating the aspirations of millions of ordinary Filipinos to reality.

"Existing political parties are used to promote selfish interests, not the common good," Pacheco pointed out. The manipulation and exploitation of voters has exacerbated the problem, he said.

He said the solutions to the problems facing the Philippines today lie in drastic, radical change—from within.

Pacheco, the foremost proponent of a gunless society, called on people seeking change to join Ang Kapatiran as an "antidote to dirty politics."

He said the organization, with its founding principles based on the social teachings of the Church, stood ready to provide the leadership as well as moral and political regeneration so badly needed today.



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Cristina Romualdez

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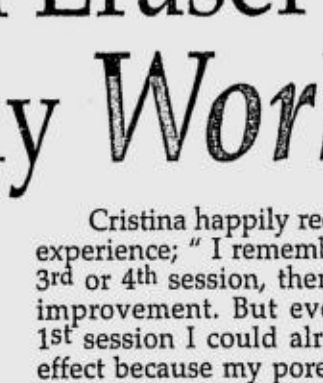
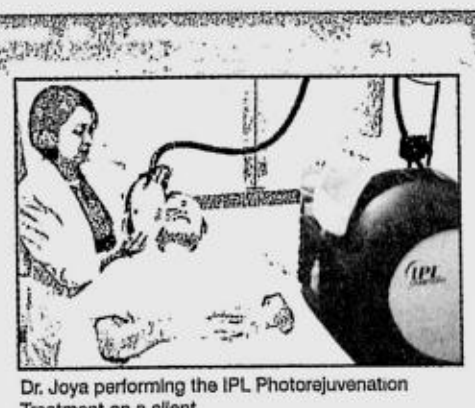


Carmi Martin

Cristina happily recalls her IPL experience; " I remember after the 3rd or 4th session, there was a big improvement. But even after the 1st session I could already see an effect because my pores tightened. Somebody told me my skin was glowing...and this was right after an IPL treatment! The best thing about it is there's no downtime. Since I like going to the beach and out of town, I'm always exposed to the sun. That's why I go for IPL treatments after an outing. I'm really happy with it!"

Another fan of IPL is actress/interior design consultant Carmi Martin. She happily relates: "I used to have an uneven skin tone because of pigmentation and freckles. After IPL, my skintone became even! In the past I'd always have to wear make-up because I was afraid to let people see me without it. Now, since I love going to Boracay, I can enjoy the sun and sea make-up free!"



Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

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Actress Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo is all praises for this blemish eraser as well. "Since my skin is oily my problem has always been the eruption of acne," she reveals. When I started doing IPL, I noticed that my pores got smaller and I stopped getting breakouts as early as the 3rd treatment! Over time, my skin was looking clearer, and complexion-wise, so much better. Before, I couldn't leave the house without putting on some concealer on my blemishes. Now I can go out with only sunblock! I'm confident enough even without make-up because I know my skin is clear and even."

Cristina, Carmi and Dawn are only three of many satisfied clients who have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles and other skin discolorations. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned, glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day.

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Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo

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GMA says trip drew more investments to RP

By Christine O. Avendano

A NUMBER OF BUSINESS AGREEMENTS and investments were firmed up by President Macapagal Arroyo during her recent five-nation trip to Europe and the Americas.

In a televised roundtable discussion, the President said there was a new confidence in the country since she returned from her mission abroad.

Among the agreements Ms Arroyo signed was the Japan Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) which would allow the entry of Philippine agricultural products and Filipino nurses and caregivers to Japan.

She cited the continuing glowing economic picture that was attracting investors to come in.

"There is a budget surplus of P4 billion posted in August that would allow us to spend on education, health and infrastructure for our super regions," Ms Arroyo said.

Collections are up and the peso has further strengthened against the dollar to reach 50.20, the highest in the last four years, according to the Chief Executive.

RP-Japan trade pact

The RP-Japan trade pact was signed by Ms Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said at the sidelines of the Asia-Europe meeting in Finland.

Speaking to Trade Undersecretary Thomas Aquino, who was her guest, Ms Arroyo said it took time for Manila and Tokyo to complete negotiations for JPEPA because "we want our interests to be protected."

The President also said that Denmark's prime minister had offered to help enhance the use of wind energy in the Philippines after she spoke at the meeting about the need to promote alternative use of energy.

Ms Arroyo said that according to the Danish prime minister, wind energy makes up 20 percent of energy used in Denmark and yet it was able to double the number of its manufactured products in the last 25 years.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla told the President that the Danish government had previously provided official development assistance to the Philippines in the building of a 25-megawatt wind power plant in Ilocos Sur and this helped lower its cost.

"The Danish ambassador who is based in Kuala Lumpur is coming here to discuss details on the assistance they are offering to us," Lotilla told Ms Arroyo.

Energy investments

President Arroyo said that other energy investments were being negotiated by her government with other global partners but that she was not yet ready to announce them.

Lotilla told reporters later that Manila would be looking into "clean sources of energy as possible area for development assistance" from Belguim.

"The President was mentioning that in the case of Hawaii, they' re also into renewable power like wind and since they are also producing sugarcane, there is ethanol and therefore there are areas for cooperation," he said.

Lotilla said that other energy investments being worked out by Manila with global partners will be announced by the private sector.

"That's why we are not giving out the figures yet, but we are quite happy with the level of interest shown," he said.

He said that British oil and gas exploration companies as well as power companies have also expressed a lot of interest in doing business with Manila.

Investors, he said were "impressed with the way the President gave the assurance that yes in the Philippines we honor our contracts."

"The feedback that I got from the business sector was that the presence of the President in London in particular moved interest in Philippine investments to a higher level and the assurances that she gave on the business friendly environment in the Philippines was one that greatly impressed the businessmen," Lotilla added.

Correction

IN EARLY COPIES OF THE SEPT. 17 issue, a Metro story on Page A17—"Sewers worked nonstop to set new world record"—erroneously referred to residents of Nueva Vizcaya as Novo Ecijanos. Residents of Nueva Vizcaya are called Novo Vizcayanos, and those from Nueva Ecija are referred to as Novo Ecijanos.

* * *

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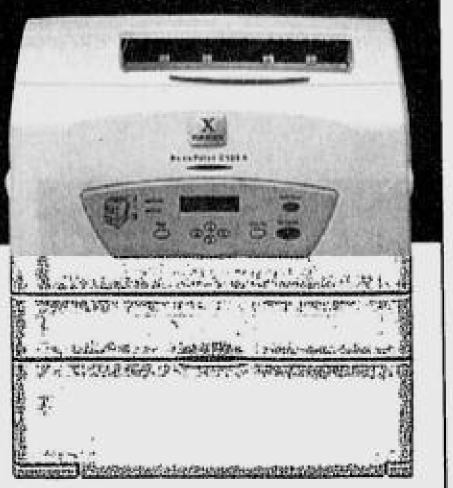

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SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS & PRODUCT PRESENTATIONS

SEPTEMBER 20
1:00 - 2:45 MIAP - Mid-year Conference
2:00 - 2:45 DAC INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS - Introduction to Delta Automation Products & PLC "DMC Solutions"
2:00 - 2:45 FLUKE SOUTH EAST ASIA PTE. LTD. Fluke Power Quality Analysis & Basic Thermography Seminar
3:00 - 3:45 FARNELL-NEWARK INONE COMPONENTS - ACCESS FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. Products & Services
3:00 - 3:45 INCA PLASTICS PHILIPPINES, INC. - The Tech of Modular & Mobile Sewage Treatment Plants
3:00 - 3:45 KAESER KOMPRESSOREN PHILS., INC. - Minimizing Energy Consumption and Achieving Savings in Compressed Air Prod'n
4:00 - 5:45 POWER SPEAK, INC. - Personal Awareness & Leadership Seminar by Mr. Joey P. Reyes, Trainer

SEPTEMBER 21
11:00 - 11:45 QES (ASIA PACIFIC) SDN. BHD- Meeting the Challenge of Latest IEC Guidelines on ROHS/WEEE by Ramir Castro, Reg. Mktg. Mgr.
1:00 - 1:45 HENKEL PHILS. - Henkel's Tech. Solutions for Electronic
1:00 - 1:45 MATTEN TECH. - Membrane Bioreactor
2:00 - 3:45 INTERTEK TESTING SERVICES - WEEE-ROHS Overview
2:00 - 2:45 ROMMA ELECTRONICS - ESD Raised Floor Systems by Han Soo Kim
2:00 - 2:45 V-TECH BARCODE SYSTEMS PHILS., INC. - Thermal Transfer Applications in Industrial Automation
3:00 - 3:45 KAESER KOMPRESSOREN PHILS., INC. - Planning for the Most Energy-Efficient & Optimum Compressed Air Station
3:00 - 3:45 P2M PHILIPPINES, INC. - P2M ESD Control & Cleanroom Specialist: Your Partner in Protection & Success
4:00 - 4:45 CIM TECHNOLOGIES INC. - Mfg. Solutions: Raising You to the Top of Technology (CAD, CAM, CAE)
4:00 - 4:45 UBIX CORP. - The BizHub Color-Series: For Short Run, On Demand Full Color Printing

SEPTEMBER 22
11:00 - 11:45 QES (ASIA PACIFIC) SDN. BHD- Meeting the Challenge of Latest IEC Guidelines on ROHS/WEEE by Ramir Castro, Reg. Mktg. Mgr.
1:00 - 1:45 MONARK EQUIP'T. - CECCATO Cost Efficient Compressed Air Sys. Reliability
2:00 - 3:45 V-TECH BARCODE SYSTEMS PHILS., INC. - Barcoding Solution for Industrial Automation
2:00 - 3:45 INTERTEK TESTING SERVICES - Environmental Compliance as Support to Effective Supply Chain Mgt
3:00 - 3:45 D SQUARED TECHNOLOGY PTE LTD - Data Matrix Application in Electronics Mfg. by Mr. Wayne Goh
3:00 - 3:45 KAESER KOMPRESSOREN PHILS., INC. - Minimizing Energy Consumption & Achieving Savings in Compressed Air Production
4:00 - 4:45 GAKKEN PHILS. - The Money-Making ABC's of Quick Print Business
4:00 - 4:45 IDEC-IZUMI ASIA PTE LTD.- IDEC PLC & Touch Screen
4:00 - 4:45 MAXIMUM SOLUTIONS CORP. - Energy Efficient Alternative Cooling Sys.
5:00 - 5:45 JG SUMMIT PETROCHEMICALS CORP. - Evalene Forum: Everything You've Wanted about Evalene PE and PP
5:00 - 5:45 KIMBERLY-CLARK PROF'L- Wiper Workshop

SEPTEMBER 23
3:00 - 3:45 GLOBIS INC. - Color Management Seminar
3:00 - 3:45 KAESER KOMPRESSOREN PHILS., INC. - Planning for the Most Energy-Efficient and Optimum Compressed Air Station
4:00 - 4:45 GAKKEN PHILS. - Pre-Press Right on your Desktop

SEMINARS BY THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR PRINT EXCELLENCE (PCPE)
SEPTEMBER 20
2:00 - 4:00 Theory & Application of Digital PrePress by Freddie Ileto B&W COMMERCIAL
4:30 - 6:30 Image Enhancement & Color Correction in the Printing Work Flow by Freddie Ileto B&W COMMERCIAL
SEPTEMBER 21
3:00 - 5:00 SIEG WERK PACKAGING/ASA COLOR - Emerging UV Ink Tech. by Alma Leonoo, Technical Manager
SEPTEMBER 22
1:30 - 2:30 HEIDELBERG - PrePress Integration by Randy Escudero, PrePress & Consumable Solutions Product Mgr
2:30 - 3:30 HEILDELBERG - Tips & Tricks in Printing Operations by Adnan Lilonua, Press Solutions Product Manager
3:30 - 4:30 HEIDELBERG - Enhancing Productivity & Efficiency in Postpress by Noel Soquerata, Postpress Solutions Prod. Mgr; HEIDELBERG - Tips & Tricks in Superdot Pressroom Consumables by John Harper, Consumable Solutions Assistant Product Manager

SEMINARS BY ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (OEMAP)
SEPTEMBER 20
1:00 - 5:45 SCHY-TECH - Basic Reverse Osmosis Technology by Mr. Horacio Freires (Fee: Php 1,000 / part.)
SEPTEMBER 21
1:00 - 5:45 SCHY-TECH - Basic Reverse Osmosis Technology by Mr. Horacio Freires (Fee: Php 1,500 / participant)
SEPTEMBER 22
2:00 - 2:45 FESTO INC. - Latest Trends in Industrial Automation
SEPTEMBER 23
1:00 - 5:45 ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOC. OF THE PHILS. - General Membership Meeting

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PHILIPPINE WELDING SOCIETY (PWS)
SEPTEMBER 20
1:30 - 4:00 Presentation of JWES International Certified Welding Engineers by Japan Welding Engineering Society
SEPTEMBER 21
10:00 - 10:45 Presentation on Filler Metal Mfg. Process by Engr. Ernesto B. Policarpio, Technical Manager, Soudo Weld Industrial Phils. Inc.
11:00 - 11:45 Presentation on Thermoplastic Piping - Welding Technology by Engr. Lino S. Diamante, President/ CEO, Medwest Tech. Inc.
1:30 - 2:15 Presentation on Nondestructive Testing of Welds & Welded Structures by Engr. Romulo T. Carmen, Jr. Training Dir., APEX Eng'g. Services
2:15 - 3:00 Presentation on Welding Safety Reqt's on Petrochemical & Power Plants by Engr. James F. Porter, Jr., President, Ficonlab, Inc.
3:15 - 4:00 Presentation on Welding & Cutting Automation by Engr. Arnel Samonte, Sales Mgr., Toolec, Inc.
SEPTEMBER 22
10:00 - 11:30 Presentation of Training Reg. for Welding Sector - TESDA
1:30 - 2:30 15th Gen. Membership Convention for Attendance
All activities are FREE for all PWS Members. Non-members can register as PWS Members for Php 300 (One year Membership Fee)

SEMINAR BY SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS (SME)
SEPTEMBER 23
10:00 - 10:45 Enhancing Product Design Capabilities through the use of Computer-Aided Techniques by Speaker Giovanni Fabian, Faculty, Manufacturing Engineering & Management Dept., De La Salle Univ.
11:00 - 11:45 3D Designs with Autodesk Inventor by Joel Albanto, CIM Technologies (inquiries & reservations, contact Jocelyn Banzuela 752-2488)
1:00 - 5:00 Seminar on Great Altitude for Greater Productivity by Prof. Maria Mildred Hayag-Perez, Lyceum Institute of Technology

ALL SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office XIV
ARMM Complex, Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of Handling Services
Project Reference No. 06-0006-Handling-01

The National Food Authority, through its Corporate Budget intends to apply the sum of Seven Million One Hundred Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Sixty Nine Pesos and Ninety Centavos. Only (Php 7,135,169.90) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Procurement of Handling Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The National Food Authority thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), NFA Regional Office XIV, Cotabato City now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the Procurement of Handling Services covering January to December 2007 as follows:

Lot No.	Source of Stocks	Estimated Vol. to be Handled	No. of Moves	Rate per bag of 50 kg.	ABC	Required Non-refundable Fee
MAGUINDANAO						
1	NFA GID Whse., Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao	170,750 bags	2	P2.15	P 734,225.00	P 1,500.00 for lots 1 – 6
2	RPA Whse., Polloc, Parang, Maguindanao	223,398 bags	2	P2.15	P 950,611.40	
3	Philtrade V Whse., Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao	283,239 bags	2	P2.15	P 1,217,927.70	
4	CIC Whse., Cotabato City	48,150 bags	2	P2.15	P 207,045.00	
5	R & B Whse., Nuro Upi, Maguindanao	51,538 bags	2	P2.15	P 221,613.40	
6	SPGC. Tacurong	12,518 bags	2	P2.15	P 53,827.40	
LANAO DEL SUR						
7	NFA Whse., Marawi City	2,000 bags	4	P2.00	P 16,000.00	P 1,000.00 for lots 7 – 8
		391,980 bags	2	P2.00	P 1,567,920.00	
8	Balindong Whse., Malabang, Lanao del Sur	35,000 bags	2	P2.00	P 210,000.00	
BASILAN						
9	Wharf, Isabela City, Basilan	314,000 bags	2	P2.00	P 1,256,000.00	P 500.00
SULU						
10	Wharf, Jolo, Sulu	116,300 bags	2	P2.00	P 465,200.00	P 500.00
TAWI-TAWI						
11	Wharf, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi	56,200 bags	2	P2.00	P 224,800.00	P 300.00
	Grand Total	*1,705,073 bags*			*P 7,135,169.90*	

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the undersigned or BAC Vice Chairman PM KITEM P. KADATUAN and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee set by lot in the amount specified above starting September 12, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized reprersentative.

The National Food Authority will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 28, 2006, 9:00 AM at NFA Conference Room, NFA Regional Office XIV, ORG Compound, Cotabato City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 PM October 10, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash or GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to one 1% and 2.5% of the ABC respectively. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on October 10, 2006, at exactly 2:00 PM at NFA Conference Room, NFA Regional Office XIV, ORG Compound, Cotabato City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office XIV
ORG Compound, Cotabato City
Tel. No. 390-1416 / Fax No. (064) 421-2128

(Sgd.) OFELIA M. SERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 12 & 20, 2006)

Nursing board members linked to leak show up but say nothing

By Michael Lim Ubac

TWO FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF Nursing, who had been identified by the Professional Regulations Commission as being the source of the leaked questions in the June nursing licensure exams, finally showed up at the congressional inquiry into the cheating scandal yesterday.

But Anesia Dionisio and Virginia Madeja would not comment on the cheating controversy that has affected the professional future of 42,006 nursing graduates from all over the country who took the exams on June 11 to 12.

"No comment," said Madeja, who invoked her constitutional right to due process and objected to being grilled further by members of the joint House committees on civil service and professional regulation, justice and good government.

Explaining why she suddenly disappeared when the scandal broke out in late June, Madeja said she was afraid to come out "because people have prejudged the issue already."

Self-incrimination

She also said she didn't want to incriminate herself as the National Bureau of Investigation has filed a case against her with the Office of the Ombudsman.

Dionisio said she would be willing to answer the charges in the proper forum while insisting that she did not do what she was being accused of doing.

But officials of the PRC, the government agency in charge of licensing professionals in the country, pointed an accusing finger at Dionisio and Madeja, saying they had been negligent.

PRC Chair Leonor Tripon Rosero said the agency's system was secure and that the leak was the fault of the two BON board members.

"Actually, we cannot say that they leaked the questions. What we always say is that they owned the manuscripts," said Rosero.

PRC Commissioner Renato Valdecantos, who headed the PRC committee that handled the internal investigation into the incident, said it was tantamount to "neglect of duty."

He said the committee had submitted its report to the NBI in which it recommended the filing of administrative charges against Madeja and Dionisio.

"Based on the evidence we gathered, their test manuscripts were the source of the leakage. That is why the charge is for neglect of duty," Valdecantos said.

He said Dionisio had admitted to him that she had lost her manuscript of test questions, finding out about it long after the June exams were over.

He explained that the 18 pages of leaked test questions were actually handwritten notes for Tests III (20 questions) and V (90 questions), which "came from the manuscripts of Mrs. Dionisio and Mrs. Madeja."

Valdecantos said the real test questions were not the ones that were circulated.

He said the leaked notes showed that the questions had been copied almost verbatim, even down to the sequence and the names of the persons mentioned in the examinations papers.

No coverup

Valdecantos decried accusations that the PRC was trying to cover up the controversy, saying "we would not have come up with anything against anybody" if that were the case.

"The PRC was never involved in this leakage. The leakage came from the Board of Nursing," he said.

Lawyer Cheryl Daytec-Yangot accused both the BON and PRC of conspiracy to hide the truth from the public. She said the PRC was "dictating" the outcome of the NBI's investigation into the scandal.

He lamented that the PRC could only determine neglect of duty in its investigation.

"There might be co-conspirators or participants but we don't have hard evidence. That is why we requested the NBI to conduct further investigations," he said.

Charles Santiago, the PRC legal officer who is alleged to have been the source of the leak in Baguio City, also professed innocence.

He said he had to leave the "confidential room" while the test questions were being printed to get their allowance from the cashier because they had run out of food.

Officemate Edward Tajeda corroborated Santiago's statement but Rosero said staff members detailed at the confidential room had orders to stay inside.

NBI regional director Elfren Meneses, chief of the anti-fraud and computer crimes division, said the bureau would complete its investigation and file additional charges soon.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 20, 2006
24th Week in Ordinary Time
Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions

1st Reading: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13
Gospel: Luke 7:31-35

Jesus said, "What comparison can I use for this people? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace, about whom their companions complain: 'We piped you a tune and you wouldn't dance; we sang funeral songs and you wouldn't cry.'

Remember John: he didn't eat bread or drink wine, and you said: 'He has an evil spirit.' Next came the Son of Man, eating and drinking, and you say: 'Look, a glutton for food and wine, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But the children of Wisdom always recognize her work."

Commentary

Reach for the higher gifts! Love unending, enduring with grace, no violence, no thought of self, no reward, rejoicing in others' gain, forgiving, not taking offense, delighting in the Truth of God, ready to excuse, hope, and serve. Are we adults or still just children when it comes to love? What are we, the men and women of this generation like? Are we selfish, petty, stupid, irreverent of those who cry justice and, without harm, obey the commands to love and serve the least among us? Do we have any Wisdom at all?

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RP's biggest firms start scrimping on education

By Daxim L. Lucas

SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST CORporations and their associated foundations have begun to tighten their purse strings, making less money available this year for priority programs like education reform.

Nonetheless, a local network of over 75 corporate foundations and corporations is pushing for a roadmap which it describes as "the last chance" to overhaul the creaking education system, and to avert a crisis that will eventually weaken the economy.

"It is becoming harder and harder to convince people [to give money]," League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) executive director Marge M. Barro said in an interview.

The group was channeling the resources to improve the quality of education in the country, which they said, had declined significantly in recent years.

'Donor fatigue'

She pointed out that the amount of funds available to LCF member organizations had declined to P1.2 billion this year from P1.5 billion last year, representing a 20-percent annual drop.

Barro attributed the phenomenon to "donor fatigue" among the group's members—a worrying development given the extent of the education problem in the country which LCF is hoping to address.

She added, however, that many corporate members had replaced the lost funds with noncash services.

"The money is never enough," Barro said, pointing to the extent of the country's education problem as evidenced by declining English proficiency, math and science skills even among graduates of top universities.

According to Robert de Quelen, who is the deputy managing editor at public relations firm Eon, and an LCF partner, there is a sense of urgency among companies—including foreign firms operating locally—in their bid to arrest the decline in the quality of education.

Sense of panic

"I'd say there is almost a sense of panic," De Quelen said.

More and more businesses were relocating their operations to the Chinese mainland where labor inputs were significantly cheaper, he said, while the Philippines was frittering away one of its last remaining advantages—English proficiency.

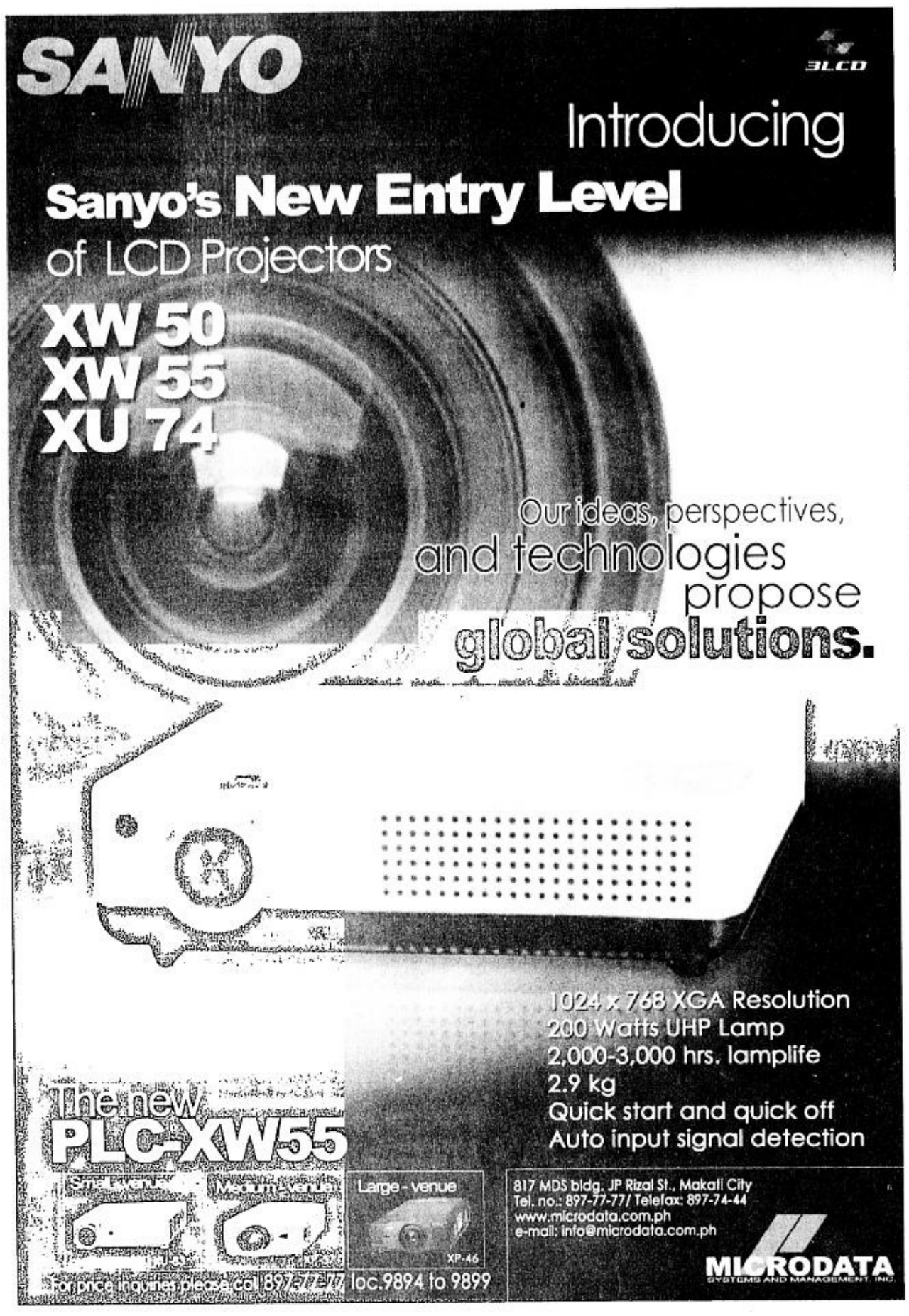
"We must remember that there are about 350 million Chinese learning English, and they are learning very fast," De Quelen stressed.

He pointed to the results of a recent study showing that over two-thirds of the Filipino population spoke fluent English seven years ago.

"Now that level is less than 50 percent," he said, adding that foreign business groups like the American and European chambers of commerce are particularly worried.

LCF's roadmap—which will be unveiled in ceremonies today in Makati City—hopes to coordinate the disparate efforts of several corporate donors toward overhauling the education system.

"We are shedding all our egos and our logos," Barro said. "Something larger is at work here. [The declining quality of graduates] is a wake-up call for the business community."



Are You Missing Out On These Pleasure Factors During Sex?

Are you secretly suffering from lack of strong, hard performance during intimate moments with your partner? Or do you have to take a drug to help you perform well but suffer afterwards from headaches and fear that it might one day kill you?

Man achieves ultimate sexual pleasure if 4 factors are present: hard and sustained erection, prolonged orgasm, quicker recovery after orgasm, and very importantly, a satisfied partner. Woman, on the other hand, achieves major enjoyment when sexual desire and lubrication are induced naturally – which is a major problem for many.

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KMP assailed for filing human rights case before UN

By Norman Bordadora

THE ALLIANCE FOR Nationalism and Democracy yesterday criticized the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas for filing a case for human rights violations against President Macapagal-Arroyo before the United Nations Human Rights Council.

ANAD head Pastor Alcover said filing a complaint against the Arroyo administration before the UNHRC in connection with the rash of extrajudicial killings was "the height of duplicity" for an entity serving as the legal front of the local communist underground.

"Groups like the KMP, which are communist fronts masquerading as human rights or cause-oriented groups, have no moral high ground to file a case before the UNHRC against the government," Alcover said.

"How can these groups claim sincerity in taking the cudgels for the families of victims of extrajudicial killings when they refuse to cooperate with the Melo Commission or Task Force Usig in getting to the bottom of these murders?" he said.

Rebs' job?

Alcover said that while the possibility cannot be discounted that lawmen were behind some of the killings, official results based on evidence gathered by investigators show that communist rebels themselves were responsible for more than a third of the murders.

Alcover said that just like the KMP, groups such as Karapatan, Bayan Muna, Pamalakaya and other leftist organizations have snubbed these investigations, "preferring instead to mouth their sweeping, if baseless, accusations that the government is behind these killings."

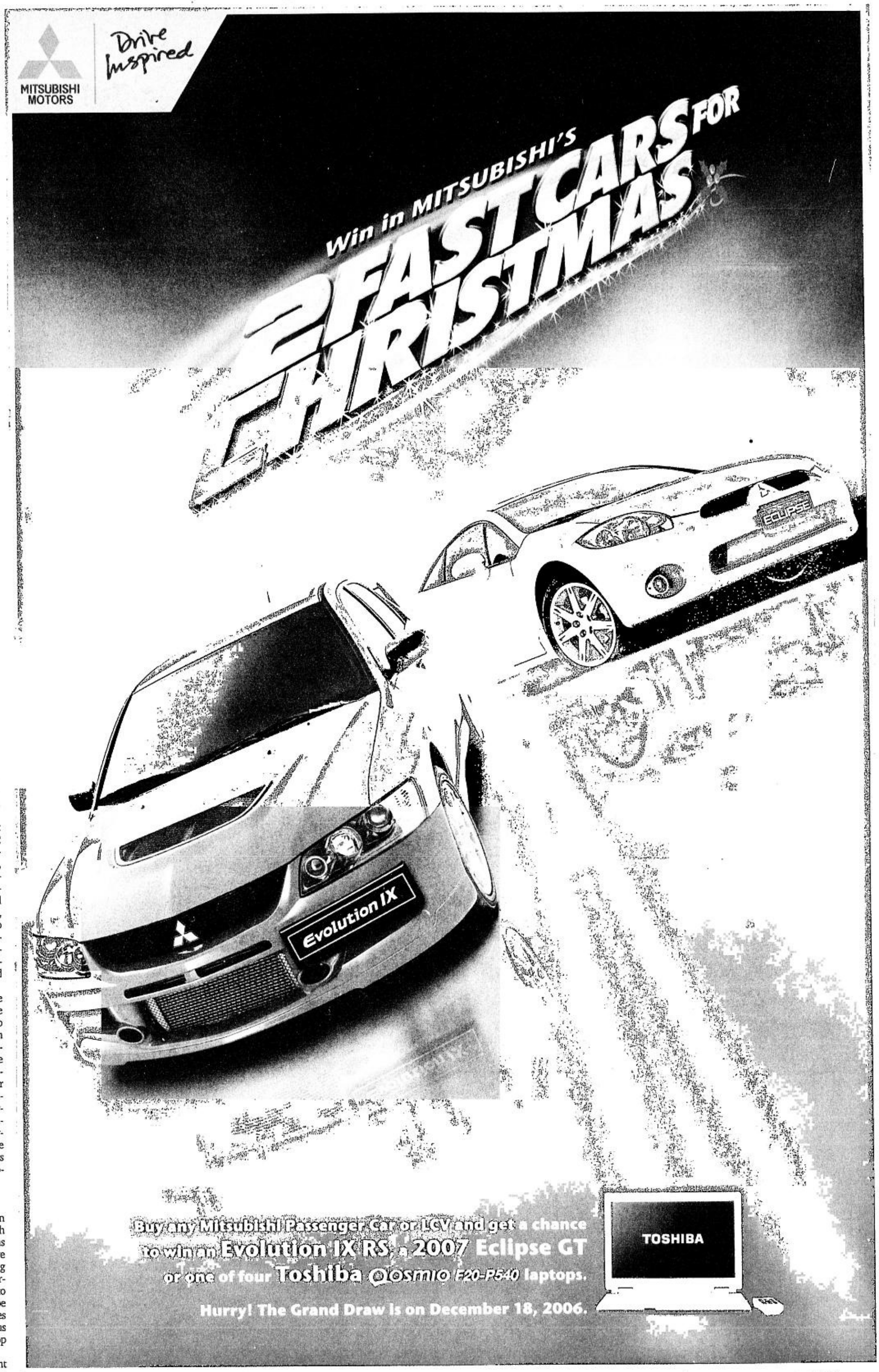
"These groups have no reason to doubt the credibility of the Melo Commission, which was tasked by Malacañang to get to the bottom of these extrajudicial killings, after European Commission Juan Manuel Barroso himself had commended President Arroyo for creating the panel and taking steps to address this problem," Alcover said.

Transparency

He also said foreign delegations from such European countries as Spain and Finland are already coming over—upon Ms Arroyo's invitation—to observe the Melo probe and see for themselves what Malacañang has been doing to stop these murders.

"The government has shown its transparency and commitment in dealing with these cases by inviting foreign delegations to witness for themselves what has been done so far and what are to be done with regard to these murders," Alcover said.

"In contrast, leftist groups have been doing everything to ensure that these killings remain unsolved, simply because they do not want the public to winnow the truth from fiction behind these dastardly acts," he added.



Never say die for makers of torn giant RP flag

GETTING THE BALL ROLLING in the fund raising for the restoration of the giant Philippine flag are (from left) Sister Gabriel Broquet; Grace Gupana, vice president of the PG Halleluyah Tower; Dr. Dominique Vierman and Rabbi Baruch Vierman of Israel;, Rev. Rita Kay Shasfin of the United States; and Rev. Daniel Fluecleiger of Switzerland. JOAN BONDOC

By DJ Yap

THERE'S HOPE FOR THE GIANT PHILIPPINE flag a few days it was ripped by strong winds during its unfurling in a mountain town in Nueva Vizcaya.

A busload of teenagers saw the torn flag and decided to each donate P10 to help patch up the Philippine colors.

This inspired organizers to begin a fund drive for the restoration of the flag measuring 200 meters by 100 meters (about the size of two football fields), said Grace Gupana, founder of Halleluyah PG Tower Ministries, the main organizer.

But in a bizarre development, the giant Philippine flag, once restored, would be unfurled in the United States, which holds the record for the world's largest flag. This particular Stars and Stripes measures 77.7 meters by 153.9 meters and weighs 1,363 kg.

"The unveiling will be in Los Angeles, California, on Nov. 11. We're considering either Carson or Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena," Gupana said in an interview yesterday in Quezon City.

"It will coincide with the celebration of 100 years of migration of Filipinos to the US, and it will be witnessed by hundreds of our countrymen based there," she said.

Gupana said organizers had run out of ideas for places where they could mount the Philippine super flag.

On Saturday, the unfurling of the flag, weighing 3.75 tons, at Ynordenan Hill in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, was spoiled when strong winds tore it apart, to the dismay of hundreds of onlookers.

Earlier, Gupana's group had considered Rizal Park in Manila, but scrapped the idea because the area was too small.

They also asked the University of the Philippines if they could hold the flag unveiling and a prayer rally at the Sunken Garden in UP Diliman, Quezon City.

But university officials denied the request, citing possible violations of flag laws (RA 8491 states that the Philippine flag should hang from a flagpole or from a wall; it should not be displayed horizontally face-up nor should it touch anything beneath it).

Officials also cited the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

"So, when the flag is restored, we have nowhere else to go [but the US]," Gupana said.

She appealed to all patriotic Filipinos to donate P10 to help repair the flag. The campaign aims to collect P2 million from Filipinos from all walks of life.

"That's equivalent to 217,800 Filipinos giving P10 each. They represent the 217,800 sq ft measurement of the flag," said a pastor who works with the ministry.

The idea started from a group of high school students who approached organizers and said they were willing to part with their P10 to help with the restoration, Gupana said.

"Many of them were so affected just looking at the ripped flag, they said they wouldn't want the flag to leave Nueva Vizcaya looking like that," she said.

"Elementary school pupils, high school students, young children... they were saddened to see the flag in such a state," Gupana said. "It made me think, why don't we go on?"

Another quake drill today

PUBLIC SCHOOLS nationwide would hold their second nationwide simultaneous earthquake drill today.

Officials of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said they want to hold quarterly drills in schools to perfect evacuation procedures.

Among the pilot sites chosen for the latest round of drills is the C. Arellano High School in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

At 9 a.m., students and teachers from public elementary and high schools nationwide will execute the evacuation drill set by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

"We're trying to come up with a system wherein the response will already be automatic," said Anthony Golez, spokesman of the Office of Civil Defense.

He said they will institute the Incident Command System to set a systematic coordination among the different agencies that will respond to an earthquake scenario.

The first nationwide drill was held in July 2005. *Dona Pazzibugan*

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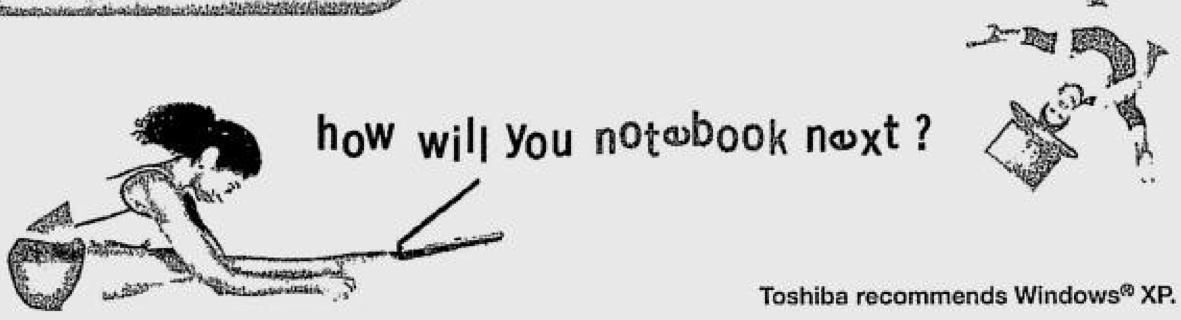

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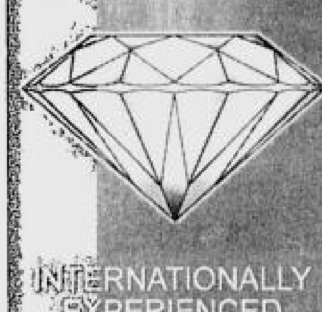

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Fake peptest papers probed

By Norman Bordadora

THE OMBUDSMAN TASK FORCE tasked to investigate on alleged irregularities in the public education system has started its investigation into the alleged involvement of Department of Education officials in the issuance of fake placement examination certificates.

The DepEd's placement exams, or Peptests, give undergraduate high school students who have been delayed in their studies a chance to be admitted into college if they come up with satisfactory scores.

Faked Peptest certificates were allegedly used by De La Salle University officials to make it appear that two of its varsity basketball players were eligible to play in the 2004 Universities Athletic Association of the Philippines.

"We are determined to find out the truth about this matter. The falsification of Peptest certificates erodes the integrity of the educational system specifically the value of government instruments and public documents," said Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni.

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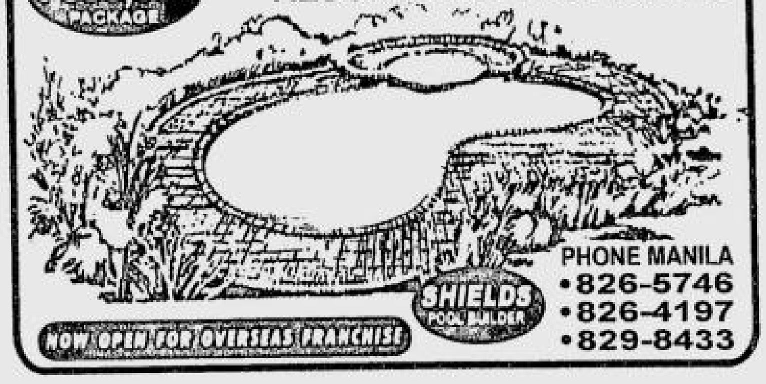

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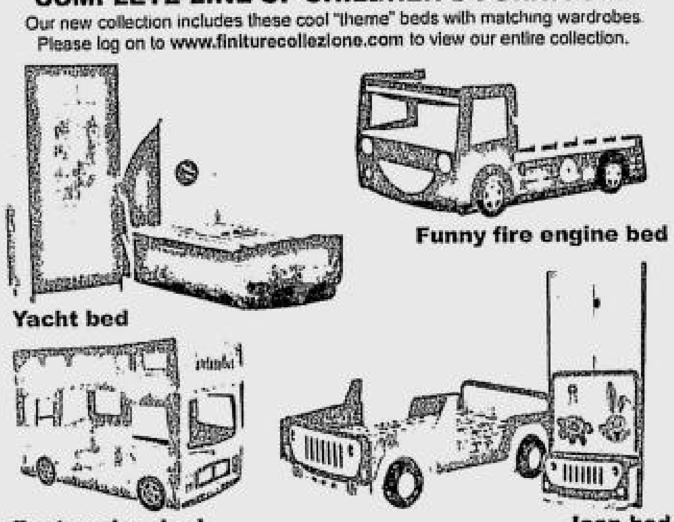

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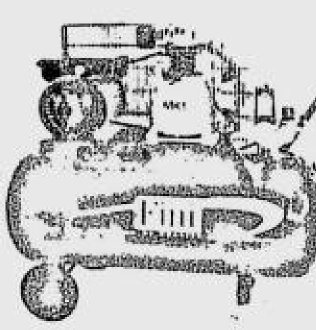

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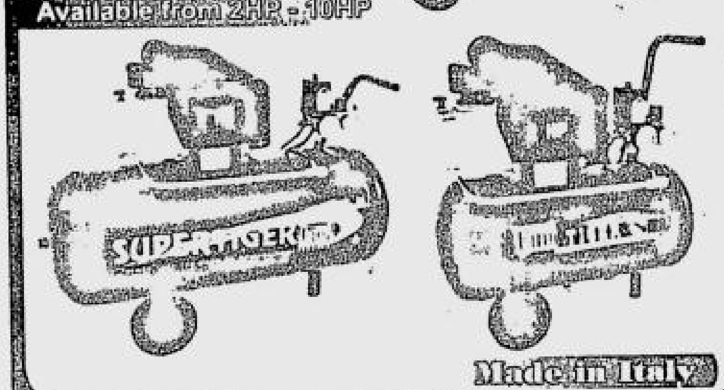

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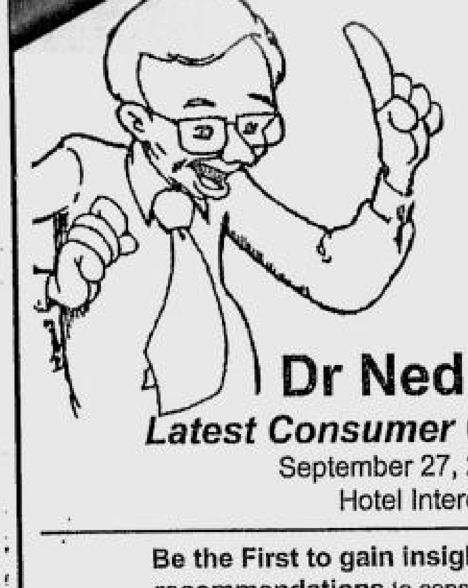

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No celebration when 'Nicole' turns 23 on Friday

By Volt Contreras

AN EMOTIONAL "NICOLE" YESterday aired her continued rejection of the public prosecutors assigned by the Department of Justice to argue her case.

Nicole, who turns 23 on Friday, broke into tears in a press conference she called not far from the courthouse—her second in five days.

According to her private lawyer, Evalyn Ursua, Nicole did not want to look "scared" in the media but requested photographers and camera crews not to show her full face.

Disbelief

Ursua, therapist Dr. June Pagaduan-Lopez and at least a dozen members of women's advocacy groups joined Nicole at the press conference held at a restaurant in Makati City. Her mother was conspicuously absent.

Nicole was particularly angered by an earlier statement attributed to Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos, head of the public prosecution team, that she had "never believed" the rape complaint from the start.

"And so what is she doing there in court? She should be with the defense," Nicole said in Filipino. "How come the people who say they don't believe [me] are the same people representing me?"

She said that at this point in her case, "I'm just telling myself that I can endure this. It was never easy for me to come out in the open, to be talked about by the public."

"I'm the victim here, and there would be no case for the 'People of the Philippines' if I didn't file it," she said, in allusion to another statement by De los Santos.

But Ursua conceded that there were no legal remedies for Nicole at this juncture in relation to her request that the public prosecutors be replaced.

She said she herself could not attend the hearings now because her client did not want to show up in court.

'Department of Injustice'

"We will just continue to appeal. It's really Nicole's decision now," Ursua said, adding that she could, in the meantime, act as her client's spokesperson.

In the course of the press conference, Nicole said the DOJ should now be called "Department of Injustice."

Still railing at De los Santos, she said the lead prosecutor had "never approached" her in the courtroom gallery for consultations and even "shouted" at her.

She said De los Santos had also turned down her request for Ursua—rather than a public prosecutor—to conduct the cross-examination of her alleged rapist, Lance Cpl. Dàniel Smith.

US Marine says 'Nicole' a professional, not a victim

From page A1

Prosecution witnesses testified to seeing Nicole being carried out of the van and left on the road "like a pig" by two Americans, her pants on front side back but pulled down to her knees, and a used condom dangling from the garter of her panties.

Smith denied this account when he was presented as the first defense witness last week and testified that he and Nicole had consensual sex. He said the sex act ended after about three minutes because he and his comrades had to rush back to their ship, the USS Essex, to beat their midnight curfew.

While Carpentier told the court that he did not actually see what was happening in the van's back seat, his testimony backed Smith's narration that Nicole got off the van on her own, and that she was coherent throughout the time she was in the vehicle.

In questioning Carpentier, Berdal pointed out that, unlike his co-accused who had to be back on their ship at midnight, he had until 2 a.m. to enjoy liberty (the time given to servicemen for rest and recreation).

Berdal: "Since your curfew was at 2 a.m. and you still had time, didn't you extend assistance to a girl in a partial state of undress in an open area?" Berdal said.

Carpentier: "No, ma'am."

Berdal: "Is that what they teach you at the Marines?"

Carpentier's counsel, Francisco Rodrigo, raised an objection, and Berdal withdrew the question.

Ashamed

When Rodrigo asked him later if Nicole had sought his help after alighting from the van, Carpentier said no.

He also readily answered Berdal when she asked why Nicole would accuse him of rape.

"She was ashamed and embarrassed of her conduct that evening, and due to the fact that casual observers came up with their own conspiracy inside the van, she was embarrassed and decided to [go along]," Carpentier said.

He also described the complainant as being "aggressively flirtatious" while seated on Smith's lap inside the Neptune Club, the Subic nightspot where the two met.

Later upon questioning by Judge Benjamin Pozon, Carpentier elaborated on what he thought of Nicole at the time of the alleged crime.

"I was shocked and offended that she would conduct herself that way at the back of the van. I can't say for sure what she did, but at least it involved removing her pants. She could've either been trying on a new pair of pants or having sex," he said, adding later that he was "kinda appalled and felt disrespected by [Nicole's] conduct."

STEPH BRAVO

CO-ACCUSED Chad Carpentier takes the witness stand on Tuesday.

When Pozon asked if Marines were briefed on "the girls they could expect to meet" on foreign shores, Carpentier said: "I have extensive world travel and I know that women like to loiter around areas where there are military men."

He later said only "a small percentage" of women exhibiting such behavior were "out there" but that he did not have this judgment on all the women he met.

First night out

On direct examination, Carpentier testified that on the night of the alleged rape, he left the USS Essex at around 10:40 p.m. with Gunnery Sgt. Paul Taylor as his liberty buddy.

This was how he recounted what transpired:

Carpentier and Taylor boarded the van that the Marines had hired for the use of Essex personnel during their stay at the freeport. Filipino driver Timoteo Soriano Jr. was behind the wheel.

It was Carpentier's first night out at the port, so he left it to Soriano to look for a place where he and Taylor could eat. After two attempts, they found an open restaurant—Aresi's—and had dinner there.

Because he knew that a large group of the platoon under his supervision was out, Carpentier called Cpl. Corey Burris to check on everyone and to give notice that he would pick them up when he and Taylor had finished with dinner.

Burris told him that many of the younger Marines who had to be back on their ship by midnight were at the Neptune.

At the bar

This was how Carpentier described what happened next:

He dropped Taylor off at a hotel in the freeport because the latter wanted to freshen up.

At around 11:30 p.m., Soriano drove Carpentier to the Neptune, where he saw Silkwood, Duplantis and Smith with a woman seated on Smith's lap.

Carpentier began rounding up the Marines.

Moments later, he walked out of the bar and saw the three Marines and the Filipino woman—whom he later confirmed to be the complainant—standing by the locked van.

Carpentier said he had to go back inside to look for Soriano.

Burris and his buddy, Lance Cpl. Albert Lara (two Marines initially investigated for Nicole's allegations but who were not charged), were also due at the Essex at midnight. When Carpentier could not find them, he told Soriano it was time to go.

In the van

While Carpentier testified that he did not see the exact order of how the passengers boarded the van, he said Smith and Nicole were seated in the back seat, Silkwood and Duplantis were in the row in front of them, and he in the front passenger seat.

He proceeded with his account:

As the van began to move, a security guard approached to ask for a tip, and another security guard spoke to Soriano to "offer us (Marines) females."

Carpentier refused the offer and told Soriano to go on driving.

When he saw a group of US servicemen at a pizza place along the way, Carpentier told Soriano to slow down so he could look for Lara and Burris.

He spotted them in the crowd, told Soriano to pull over, and chided Burris for taking off earlier.

Lara and Burris did not get in the van. Carpentier challenged them "to beat me back to the ship."

The trip to the Alava Pier, where the Essex was docked, took 10-15 minutes.

Inattentive

When asked by Berdal if he saw what Smith and Nicole were doing in the back seat during the ride to the pier, Carpentier said: "I wasn't paying minor attention to that. My focus was curfew, not Filipino girl."

Asked why he allowed a civilian woman to board the military-leased van, he said: "At the time, I couldn't tell that it would turn into this big fiasco. I didn't see it was a big deal. I didn't really want to deal with the separation of lovers."

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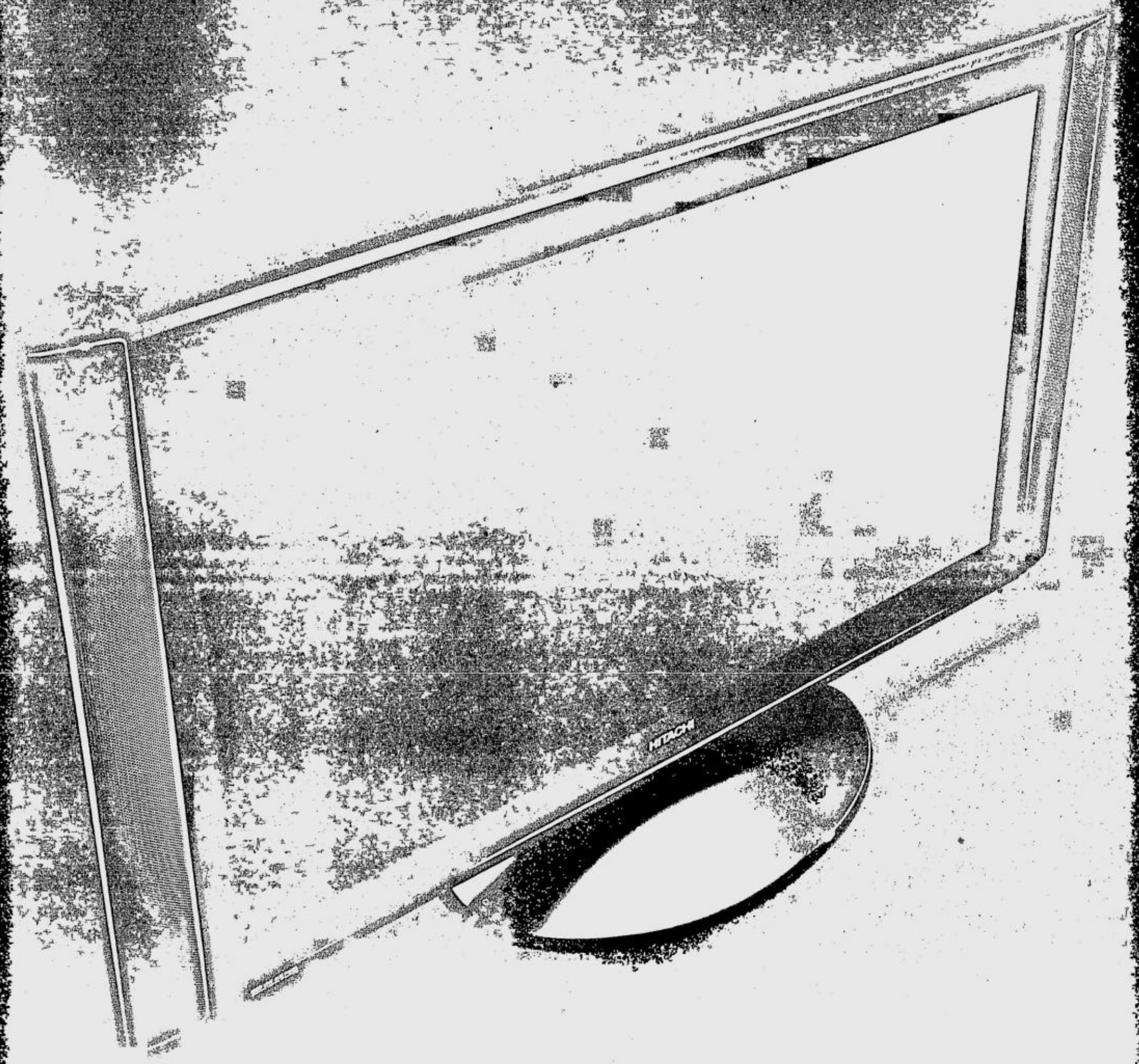

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OPINION

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INQUIRER

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Jet-setting

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, PERHAPS miffed at being unable to land at Naia 3, gave no arrival statement. It was left to Arthur Yap, the chief of the Presidential Management Staff, to shine his former professor's apple. His positive spin was this: "The mere fact she was there and personally engaging international support organization and foreign governments is doing a lot for the Philippines in terms of linking us up for more cooperation and program."

After the President spent nine days abroad, the country is being told to be thankful that she is a member of the jet set.

In Finland, the President got a stern admonition on human rights from her counterpart.

In London, the President was fobbed off on a fourth-rate royal (Prince Andrew is only fourth in line to the throne) good for sending to promote British investments, but a poor substitute, protocol and prestige-wise, for entertaining a head of state visiting the British capital (even young Prince Harry would have been more significant as a mark of British consideration, of which there was little). There were grim photos of Ms Arroyo receiving a lecture from the head of Amnesty International. And indeed, that was the story of the President's trip. It was a journey whose every step was dogged by the deteriorating human rights record of our country, and the pointed insistence of Europeans that the buck stops at her desk.

The behavior of her Cabinet was revealing. The Melo Commission had been formed prior to the President's departure. She could at least say she was doing something about it. But then Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr., hearing Melo's complaint that he had no funds, replied, "We understand that the funds that they need will come from agencies that will assist them, whether it's the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police or Armed Forces of the Philippines." The top suspects funding their own investigation? What could this suggest other than a whitewash?

The issue of human rights also put into question the government's motives for deciding not to support the creation of an international human rights tribunal. Filipino officials share the same fears as their American counterparts that our government would be subjected to frivolous law suits, which is more a sign of government's lack of faith in international justice than it is a reflection of reality.

Philippine diplomats heaved a sigh of relief that their boss wasn't given the cold shoulder at the Summit of Non-Aligned Nations, to which our government doesn't even logically belong (whether Carlos P. Romulo in Bandung or Alberto Romulo in Havana, the last thing the Philippines has been considered by the non-aligned world is part of them). If the Philippines' lack of support for an international court of criminal justice wasn't embarrassing enough, there was another reason to alienate the non-aligned nations, given their general sympathies. The country made a diplomatic mess of its sponsorship of a resolution condemning the Israeli invasion of Lebanon (and the decision to abstain, when the vote came).

The human rights issue—and small clusters of protesting Europeans and Filipinos in Belgium and London—wasn't the only one of the President's chickens that came home to roost or followed her around. Trade Secretary Peter Favila was scheduled to address German businessmen, but cancelled the event (after lengthy preparations), perhaps to duck hostile questions concerning Fraport and Naia 3.

The Palace was left trumpeting that Bush had greeted Ms Arroyo—in a letter—and the signing of a free trade agreement with Japan on the sidelines of her Finland visit, a favor from a lame duck Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, perhaps, since such agreements aren't actually signed by heads of government, but merely witnessed by them as their ministers do the actual affixing of signatures.

So what were the nine days of traveling about? Malacañang is still trying to figure that one out. Philippine diplomatic policy is a shambles. Our government's standing among some of its most faithful friends, the Western democracies, is at a new low. And there was no bacon to be had, much less to bring home.

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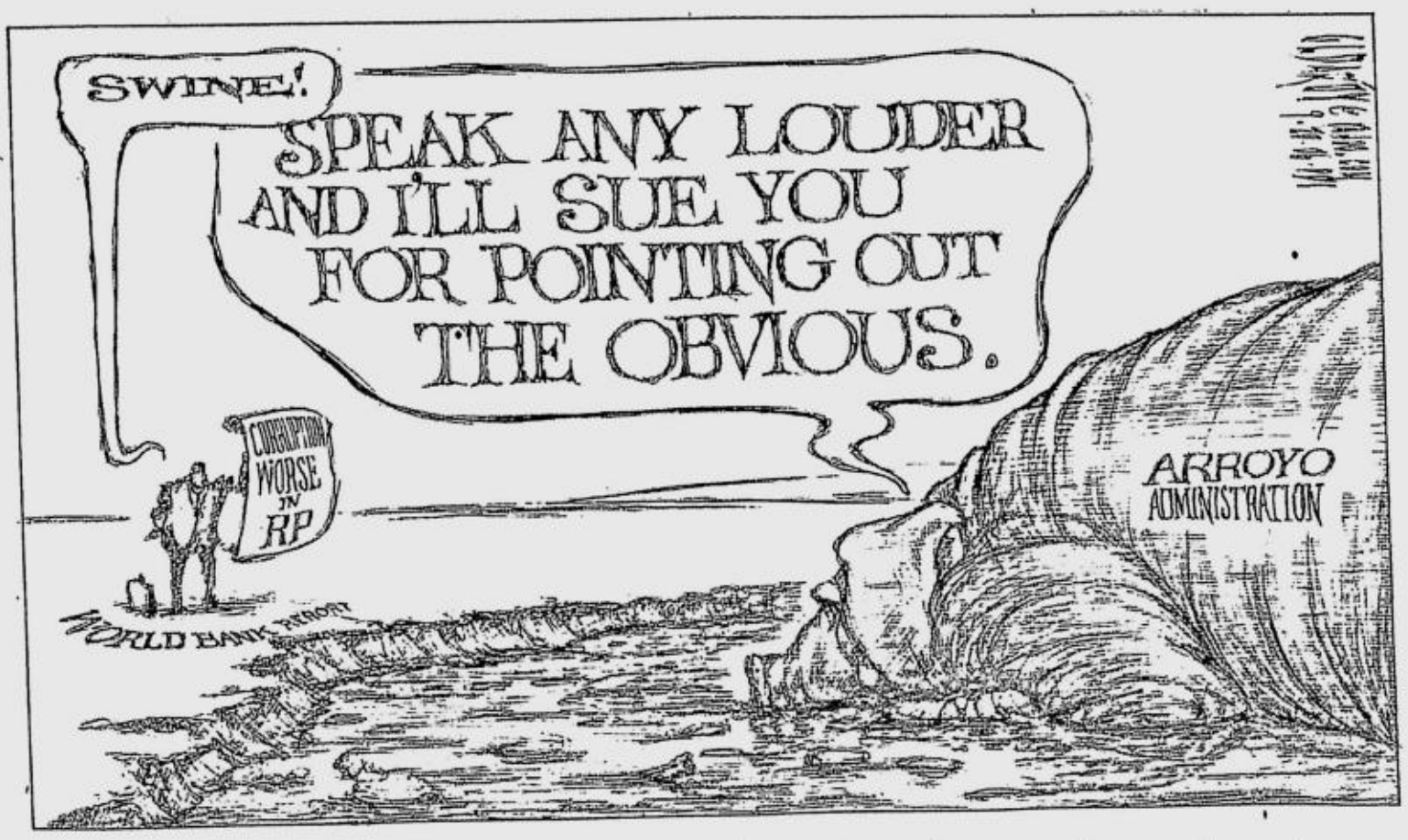

Atis of Boracay being discriminated against

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT HAPPENED IN AMERICA AND IN AUSTRALIA decades ago is being repeated in our own Boracay. The native Americans were hunted down and finally consigned to reservations by the white settlers from Europe. The same thing was done to the aborigines of Australia, who were consigned to the outback by the criminals and other scum from England. On Boracay island, the native Atis who have lived there since time immemorial are being relocated to give way to the tourist resorts of foreigners and the elite from Manila. If plans do not miscarry, the Atis will be relocated to a village inland, away from the prosperous beach front, away from the sea where they fish for a living. They are not even being given the opportunity to be employed by the resorts as attractions and curiosities to the hordes of tourists who flock to Boracay.

Land-grabbing is now the most lucrative enterprise on the island. The unprecedented prosperity brought by tourism should, first of all, benefit the natives who, under the law on ancestral domain, own the island. But progress has not reached the Atis even while prosperity abounds around them. On the contrary, this prosperity is bringing sorrow to them. They are being ejected from the land where their tribe has lived for centuries to give way for more resorts owned by foreigners and businessmen from Luzon.

These resort owners are protesting the government's classification of the whole island as agricultural and forest land to be sold to the private sector at public auction. "Why should we buy again our own property?" say the resort owners, many of whom are foreigners, as can be seen from the photographs.

No, they don't own any land on Boracay even if they have "titles" to some parcels. The whole island is still public land; it is only now that it is being declared alienable and disposable. Technically, all the occupants there are squatters, with the exception of the native Atis who have the right of ancestral domain under the law—the same Atis whom the squatters from elsewhere want to throw into the equivalent of Indian reservations in America and the outback in Australia. The resort owners built their hotels and restaurants on public land not legally sold to them. They may have paid occupants for the parcels of land, but what they paid for, technically, is only the right to squat on those lots.

The state will begin to sell parcels of the island only during the scheduled public auction. The fair and legal way to sell them is through public bidding, so that there is transparency, and the lots can be sold to the highest bidders and not through secret negotiations where corruption comes in.

The Anti-Dummy Law is a dead-letter law on Boracay. Many of the resorts are owned by foreigners who use dummies to circumvent the law banning foreigners from owning land. Some have resorted to the common ploy of marrying Filipinos who consent to being used as dummies to get around the laws of their own country.

Presidential Proclamation 1064 classifies 628.96 hectares, or 60.94 percent of the 1,032-ha island as alienable and disposable through public auction. The remaining areas (less than 40 percent) will remain as permanent forest reserves, protected areas and swamps.

That's the wise thing to do. Without the permanent forests and protected areas, Boracay will soon degenerate into a concrete jungle of honky-tonks because of the greed of businessmen.

But before the government starts selling the lots, it should first make sure that the native Atis get theirs in the present site of their villages, not the hinterlands. Let us not repeat the abuses and exploitation done by the European settlers on the Indians in America and the Aborigines in Australia.

* * *

Still on the environment, it is a relief to note that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources under Secretary Angelo Reyes, while encouraging mining in the Philippines, is at the same time seeing to it that the environment is protected and preserved. Irresponsible mining is very destructive of the environment—even more so than logging. Once the earth is opened up in open-pit mining, the environmental degradation is permanent.

The Philippines was once among the top 10 biggest producers of gold, nickel, chromium, copper and other mineral resources in the world, earning us hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Somehow, we have lost that lead. And we have had sad experiences with mining companies, as in Marinduque and Lafayette.

I am glad to note, however, that, through the initiative of Reyes, we may soon regain this position in global mining. Reyes invited executives from 24 multinational companies engaged in mining in Africa for the Philippine Mining Conference in Makati last Sept. 12 to 14. The biggest mining companies operating in Africa took a hard look at the Philippine mining potential and returned home visibly impressed by the Philippines' untapped minerals. Better still, they were impressed by the "social responsibility" of some local mining companies. (Of course, they were not able to talk to people victimized by and protesting the mining activities of Marcopper and Lafayette, respectively.)

After a visit to the Tampakan Copper Project in South Cotabato, Lawrence Kego Masha, deputy minister for energy and minerals of Tanzania, said: "I learned something new today. For the first time, I saw a company, which is still in the pre-feasibility stage, but which has undertaken huge investments in social responsibility to prepare the community around an intended mine to engage and participate in mining activities when the mine will already be in operation."

Ripped

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WAS FASCINATED BY THAT STORY ABOUT the Filipinos who tried to break the Guinness record for the world's biggest flag. In case you missed it in last Sunday's INQUIRER, the PG Tower Ministries International commissioned 10 seamstresses, two artists and 40 volunteers to make a Philippine flag that measured 200 by 100 meters and weighed 3.75 tons, and to unfurl it on a mountain in Nueva Vizcaya. It would have broken the record of the US flag which measures 77.7 meters by 153.9 meters and weighs 1,363 kg.

But the best-laid plots of mice and Filipinos oft go astray, and did in this case. The reason apparently the flag was to unfurl on a mountain in Nueva Vizcaya was that the authorities would not allow it to unfurl in UP Diliman. What reasons the authorities had for it, only they can say. Maybe they were afraid the students there might enrage Raul Gonzalez some more by running around in their birthday suits and at the end of it literally and figuratively hide behind the Philippine flag?

Alas, the mountain of Nueva Vizcaya did not cooperate. Furious winds tore up the upper part of the flag like they did the billowing sails of ships in days of yore as the flag was rolled down the mountain. In the end, as our photograph on Sunday's front page graphically told, all the organizers had by way of souvenir was a ripped piece of giant cloth that might yet enter Guinness as the world's classiest mess. The caption that leaped to my mind when I saw the picture was: "Tattered hopes and tattered dreams."

I do commend the authors of this enterprise for showing initiative and ambition. Heaven knows those things are getting scarcer in this country than principles among its politicians. At least some people in this country can still dream big. Most others are just content to hop on to the nearest boat or plane, exchanging stethoscope for a nurse's cap; whining beggars cannot be choosers.

But I was fascinated by the story because it pretty much told the story of our life. One of the organizers, Pastor Fred Merejilla, of course, interpreted it as God's will: "That was inevitable. God wanted it to happen. It was seen all the way from heaven. If you noticed, the torn portion was shaped like a heart. God is trying to show us that He continues to love this country, and He showed this through this flag."

My own interpretation is that if God had a hand in it, it was probably because He did not wish us to be embarrassed before the rest of the world. Or embarrassed some more, our officials already having done more than enough in that respect. If Tower Ministries had succeeded in unfurling the Philippine flag without a hitch and made it to Guinness, it would have been no small ironic commentary on our situation. We would have had the biggest flag in all the world while having the littlest loyalty to it in all the world.

Think about it: The one thing Filipinos are known for is lacking any strong ties to their country. Never mind the phenomenon of the current Diaspora, the massive exodus of Filipinos abroad looking for work or a new life—that is merely the tip of the iceberg. The malady goes deeper. The Great Filipino Dream, I've always argued, is also the Great Filipino Tragedy. That dream is to live in America, and better still—or worse still, depending on how you look at it—get a green card. That goes for the Filipino elite as much as the Filipino poor. The reason the Filipino elite do not mind despoiling the country is that they can always emigrate to America, and often do. They own property there, their children study there. At the end of the day, or when everything turns sour in their own country, no small thanks to them, they can always live there.

Would a flag worthy of Guinness have made up for a people's lack of loyalty to that flag? I don't know. Maybe the symbol itself might help to spark the dying embers. The last time I saw an outpouring of nationalist sentiment and the flag being flaunted by Filipinos was during the 100th anniversary of Philippine Independence on June 12, 1998. But that was achingly short-lived, a sudden burst of pride that swiftly passed on to passivity, not unlike the fireworks that blazed forth that night and died after an hour or so.

More than likely, an oversized flag against a backdrop of undersized patriotic passions would have highlighted the one fundamental failing, or foible, of Filipinos, which is that we prefer *porma* to practice, token to substance, ritual to life. We flagellate ourselves on Good Friday and feel free to rape and murder the rest of the year. We hear Mass and receive Holy Communion and feel free to lie, cheat and steal in public office. We go through the motions of holding elections and feel free to not count the votes.

It is not without irony itself that the Tower Ministries thought to undertake this project. If I recall my Bible, the folk of Babel once undertook to build a tower that would reach up to the skies. Heaven struck them down for their presumption, causing them to speak in many languages and thus unable to communicate with each other. I don't know that the sin of the makers of this flag is pride, or indeed that there is any sin here at all. And in any case God struck this country down long before the flag was made, causing us to speak in many languages and thus unable to communicate with one another.

Who knows? Maybe God who has been known to move in mysterious ways just wanted to tell us in the language of metaphor: "Look, people, you've ripped your flag."

* * *

Still reminding: The "Stop the Killings!" bar tour kicks off tomorrow, Thursday, Sept. 21, at 70s Bistro, 46 Anonas St., Quezon City. Bands playing: The Dawn, The Jerks, Sandwich, Sugarfree, Brownman Revival and Radioactive Sago.

Breeding new fighters in Sulu

COMMENTARY

Vic Taylor

AS THE NATION OBSERVES PEACE CONSCIOUSness Month, another bloody military operation continues in Sulu. The "search and destroy" operation launched on July 3, which was supposed to last for two days, is in pursuit of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani and two Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah personalities, Dulmatin and Umar Patek, all of whom carry multimillion-peso rewards on their heads.

The operation pits eight battalions of soldiers (theoretically 4,000 men) augmented by another battalion of Special Forces plus Scout Ranger companies against what has been estimated to be 200 Abu Sayyaf fighters. This does not include the Philippine Air Force units that have been utilized to launch aerial rocket and bombing attacks as well as the Philippine Navy flotilla which is supposed to cordon off the island of Jolo to prevent the escape of the "High-Value ($) Targets."

The operation is being aided by intelligence provided by US military forces, through their deployment of what is most likely one of the electronic reconnaissance versions of the Lockheed P-3 Orion aircraft which has been flying over Jolo for close to two years now, as well as other sophisticated gadgets which listen in on cell phone conversations, map movements of groups of persons and, on the whole, intrude into the private spheres of people. Lately US troops have been training PAF helicopter pilots on night-vision flying so they can undertake aerial attacks 24/7.

This added feature of the US intelligence effort (one of the hidden faces of the "Bayanihan" program, the public face of which consists of the "humanitarian" medical and engineering activities) does not change the essence of the approach to eradicate dissidence and, in present-day terms, terrorism: destroy at all costs.

The irony of marking Peace Consciousness Month with a full-blown military operation is not new to Suluanos. Last year, just as the Mindanao Week of Peace was being launched in Jolo on Nov. 24, PAF planes were bombing an MNLF camp in the next town of Indanan. Task Force Comet commander Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo's remarks about peace were punctuated with bomb blasts.

The latest operation marks the third "war" Suluanos have experienced in the last 19 months. In February 2005, fighting broke out between the MNLF and the AFP in Panamao, forcing some 70,000 persons to leave their homes. The renewed hostilities in November 2005 were more "restrained," with only 12,000 persons displaced. Evacuations resulting from the current operation have not yet been determined but in Patikul and Indanan, hundreds of residents have not been able to return to their homes because of continuing military patrols. Residents complain that civilians found in such places risk arrest on suspicion of being Abu Sayyaf members or, worse, being shot.

Already, reports are filtering out of the conflict areas about innocent civilians being murdered. Jul-Asri Amirul (name changed to protect his family), 30, who fled with his family from their home in Patikul several years back and ended up in Barangay Kaunayan, went to Lower Lumban to harvest coconuts and durian. While resting and watering their horses at a creek, he and his brothers were noticed by soldiers patrolling the area. The soldiers fired at them, hitting Jul-Asri at the back of his head. His brother was able to escape unharmed. The remains of Jul-Asri were later brought to his family by relatives.

Faizal Idjiran (name also changed), 30, moved to Barangay Danag in Patikul with his family a few years back. On Aug. 12, Faizal an uncle and two other men, went back to their barangay to harvest fruit and vegetables from their property. On their way home they came upon a group of soldiers who fired at them. The four scampered in different directions. Later that afternoon, Faizal's family found his body in Gandasuli, also in Patikul.

Similar stories are slowly coming out of the war zone in Sulu as the fighting rages. But as one general put it, this is "the price that all of us must collectively pay to buy peace."

This military attitude that considers everyone, even non-combatants, as enemies many Suluanos interpret to be in retaliation for the deaths and sometimes mutilation of the bodies of soldiers. But it is creating a backlash among the civilian population. One peace advocate said, "Civilians are now joining the fight because they believe they would be killed anyway by the soldiers. Even if they are only tending their cattle, they are shot at." A review of the all-out war and its take-no-prisoners strategy is in order.

One officer of the Philippine Marines vowed to "finish off" the Abu Sayyaf after six Marines were killed and 19 others were wounded in an encounter in Patikul last Sept. 4. A few days later, the newly installed chief of the Western Mindanao Command, Maj. Gen. Eugenio Cedo, urged the wounded Marines to get well fast so that they could avenge the deaths of their comrades. In a place where anyone killed is automatically labelled as a member of the Abu Sayyaf, when the highest-ranking military official exhorts his men to take up the sword of vengeance, everyone has to be alarmed.

This approach unfortunately ignores the reality that while it may serve the AFP's (and the US military's) short term objectives of routing the Abu Sayyaf and neutralizing Janjalani, Dulmatin and Patek, it will not win the war. Resentment among Suluanons will grow and new generations of dissidents will continue to arise. As one rebel commander put it some time ago, "The new generation of fighters is still in the wombs of their mothers."

Vic Taylor is the adviser of Tabang Mindanaw for its Culture of Peace Program for Sulu.

His shadow

ANNIVERSARIES LIKE SEPT. 21 TEND TO NARROW PEOple's attention to some event. So, 9/21, like 9/11, is remembered as a dark day, but with much too little discussion of the events and circumstances that led to the fateful day. In the case of martial law, we reduce history to a presidential proclamation, and then forget how much was still to unfold in the days and years that followed.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Surfing the Internet for materials on martial law, I stumbled on a Time article dated Jan. 22, 1973, describing how within the first 100 days of martial law, Marcos had vacillated between allowing more freedom or more repression, even as he plotted constitutional change.

We need to remember how martial law was really just a last desperate act on Marcos' part to keep himself in power. Under the 1935 Constitution, Marcos could be president only for two four-year terms. Into his second term, he had a constitutional convention (ConCon) organized in 1971 to revise that Constitution and move the country into a parliamentary system that would allow him to remain as head of government. It was an unpopular move, even among delegates to the Constitutional Convention, and there were exposés of how the delegates were being bribed to toe Marcos' line.

By declaring martial law in 1972, Marcos could find other ways to revise the Constitution. "Citizens' assemblies" were hastily convened to discuss the proposed new constitution in preparation for a plebiscite. Marcos promised free discussions, but quickly took all that back, accusing politicians of using the citizens' assemblies to return to the ways of the pre-martial law era. He issued a presidential decree declaring rumor-mongering a subversive crime.

Martial-law babies

Thirty-four years have passed since that fateful declaration of martial law. When I first began teaching at UP in 1985, I had martial law babies, students who had known no other president except Marcos.

Today, we have the Edsa babies—those born after the Marcos era. Sometimes though, I wonder if they are more properly called the grandchildren of the Marcos era, given how they still live, as we all do, in his shadow.

Let me share a story to make my point. Just last week, I got a call from someone in an urban poor community in Quezon City. Mang Ramon (not his real name) had been picked up by the police following a complaint from a neighbor who claimed Mang Ramon had vandalized his van. Within an hour, he was transferred first to a station precinct and then to a jail in Quezon City, all without any papers served or formal charges filed. The policemen advised him to just pay up—even a few hundred pesos—so they could close the case.

Filipino kibitzing became useful here. Several of his relatives, including two young children and neighbors accompanied him to the precinct and later to the bigger police station, and refused to leave. One of them eventually called me to ask for help, but since it was at night, I had difficulty contacting lawyers. I advised them to just keep on with their vigil, and not to agree to any of the police demands. I could tell this was another instance of *hulidap*, policemen in cahoots with some cheap racketeer to extort money.

The next day, I brought one of Mang Ramon's neighbors to UP's Office of Legal Assistance and the lawyer agreed that the policemen had no business detaining Mang Ramon. He was eventually released and his case was referred to the barangay captain, but the complainant apparently sensed he wasn't going to get away with his scam and never showed up for the hearings.

The policemen and the complainant are lucky. Mang Ramon thought of filing counter-charges but decided it might not be worth the hassle. But he and his neighbors are more confident now that they can protect themselves in the future. They were aware of the rackets and scams involving the police, but they didn't know that the police couldn't just barge into their homes, much less drag them to jail, without proper papers.

Too democratic?

"They violated my human rights," Mang Ramon told me in Filipino. I was struck by his use of the formal "*karapatang pantao,*" reminding me of the lectures human rights groups would conduct during martial law. In a way, Mang Ramon was benefiting from the human rights consciousness and networks that emerged during the dictatorship. At the same time, his feeling of helplessness and resignation also reminded me how little has changed, how terribly vulnerable people are.

Worse, I hear people rationalizing that it wasn't really that bad under Marcos, that his dictatorship was benevolent, that we had a "smiling martial law." There's even a yearning for another authoritarian ruler, with people arguing that our problems today are rooted in our being "too democratic" and that we have "too many rights."

Marcos' "smiling martial law" came about not so much because of his benevolence but because of how the nation responded. His first 100 days of martial law, as reported in Time, showed how he would test the waters, and I believe he would have been far more brutal if civil society—human rights groups, people's organizations—had not kept him on the defensive.

This 9/21 anniversary, we should be reflecting on the parallels between Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Marcos, especially her determination to perpetuate herself in power. What worries me is that the tactics Marcos resorted to—a citizens' assembly and a plebiscite, political assassinations, arrests without warrants, illegal detention—are all taking place under Arroyo even without martial law.

We still live in Marcos' shadow because his dictatorship unleashed the worst in the Filipino. He politicized the military, giving it unprecedented power without an understanding of how that power must come with responsibility and a respect for human rights. He showed how the Constitution and constitutional processes could be so easily manipulated and mangled, how constitutional bodies like Congress could be turned into an auction house, the members themselves available to the highest bidder.

Marcos showed, too, how public service could become a venue for legalized extortion. Oh, but how Marcos would be so delighted if he could see how the Presidential Commission on Good Government, set up to investigate his kleptocracy, has so deteriorated.

And if Marcos were alive today, he'd be amazed at how one of his initiatives, the systematic export of Filipino workers, could bring so much "peace" to the nation in terms of a complacent citizenry, content to live off the overseas workers' remittances and *balikbayan* boxes, even as Arroyo claims the credit for the nation's economic survival.

The Marcos dictatorship casts a long shadow, but only because we have short memories.

Defining the displaced

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"USE POWER WITH GRACE," URGED FORMER Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman yesterday, at the consultation-workshop on "Protecting Life, Well-being and Dignity: Promoting the Human Security of Uprooted People in the Asean Region."

And how does one infuse the exercise of power with grace? "By the grace-filled use of power, and the graceful use of power," she added, meaning using power not to gain ascendancy or privilege but to serve and bring together, and to use power not to weaken or disempower the other, but rather to come together in bettering lives and changing the world.

Sponsored by Community and Family Services International (CFSI), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Department of Foreign Affairs, the consultation-workshop sought to bring multi-sectoral perspectives to bear on the issues that uprooted or displaced people must confront. But even before solutions to their "human security" problems could be found, policymakers and service providers must first find the answer to the question: "Who are the displaced? Who are considered uprooted?"

Does a refugee from armed conflict who crosses the border into his home country years later cease to be a displaced person? But what if he and his family have been rendered homeless and landless?

Are so-called "economic refugees," migrant workers who leave their families behind in search of more productive work abroad, considered uprooted people, too?

And what of the situation of the "internally displaced," who become refugees in their homelands either because they are escaping armed conflict, fleeing a natural disaster, or, as in the case of the urban poor, because their homes or communities have been obliterated to make way for development?

Soliman brought up the situation of the Indonesians and Filipinos deported from Sabah, Malaysia, because of their lack of papers, which to them is a confusing situation because "it's their neighborhood and family members are found everywhere, regardless of political or national boundaries."

* * *

THE MEMBERS of the panel of resource persons came to a tentative agreement: It is not so much their location or their lack of papers that define the uprooted, as their personal circumstances and their own perception of their situation.

"I still live in uncertainty," declared a participant, who described himself as an "IDP" who had relocated to Manila from his strife-torn hometown in Mindanao, but continues to deal with "human insecurity" as he's become an informal settler (the politically correct term for squatter) in the city.

Yet another dimension of this problem are the special circumstances of women and girl refugees who must face constant threats against their "life, well-being and dignity."

Miriam College president Tatti Licuanan, speaking on "Gender and Displacement," pointed out that women and girls are "particularly at risk in situations of displacement," detailing how they must deal with the threats of gender-based violence, forced return and poverty "before, during and after displacement, and even after repatriation."

Gender-based violence, in particular, said Licuanan, has become "an integral component of armed conflict," such that far from becoming just so much "collateral damage" in times of war, women and girls become "spoils of war," victims of systematic and deliberate rape and violence as part of ethnic cleansing campaigns, a policy of providing sexual favors for combatants, or just to demoralize the forces of the other side.

And yet it takes so little to protect uprooted women and girls from violence. Simply making women part of the design team for refugee camps, for instance, could ensure that public restrooms and showers are located near homes or shelters, are well-lit and assure them privacy and comfort.

* * *

STILL, the most compelling story of the morning plenary was told by Noraida, on her personal experiences as an "ex-IDP."

Growing up in Maguindanao, Noraida said her childhood was filled with "memories of transferring—or rather, rushing from one place to another—just so we would survive." Much of her childhood was spent in evacuation centers, she recounted, "suffering both economically and socially," and forced to stop going to school

"As a child I was full of insecurity and felt incompetent, used, neglected and marginalized," she said. She, her family and neighbors felt "betrayed" mostly because so many people had failed to live up to their promises, as when eagerly awaited peace agreements would be shattered by "back-to-back violations by both sides."

While many of her friends and relatives had given up on their dreams of ever going back to school, Noraida says she always felt "I needed to be in school." To this end, she raised money for tuition by selling food on the sidewalks and even worked as a helper in the home of a relative. "I did not stop dreaming," Noraida declared proudly, relating how she finally earned a college degree in social work and today works as a social worker for CFSI.

* * *

AND so it is that a child of war, a daughter of conflict, now spends her days working on behalf of other internally displaced people, "facilitating their safe return and working with them to formulate a reintegration plan."

In her work, she notes, it is important that "we build relationships with NGOs and the communities." It also helps, she says, that the people they work with "trust CFSI," which is celebrating its 25th year as a humanitarian organization in the Philippines and in the region.

"When I feel burned out," confessed Noraida, "I just remind myself of the importance of our work." Which is, to her, no less than to "help rebuild the lives of internally displaced people in our promised land of Mindanao."

Perspective

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THERE WAS A TIME IN THE NOT SO DISTANT past when Sept. 21 was celebrated as "National Thanksgiving Day" or words to that effect. That date was commemorated to remind us "martial law babies" that on this date in 1972, a corrupt and "old" society was replaced by the "new." Sept. 21, 1972 has since been replaced by Aug. 21 and yet another date in February 1986, and all this illustrates how history has been made, interpreted, re-interpreted and revised in our lifetime.

In his final years, the nationalist historian Teodoro A. Agoncillo was often consulted on recent history, his opinion sought on Ferdinand Marcos and his place in Philippine history. Agoncillo was sharp and knew where the questions would lead, so he would often snap and declare that a historian's task was to deal with the past, and if one attempted to use history as a way to predict the future, then the inquisitor would be better off looking at Madam Auring's crystal ball.

Agoncillo argued that aside from primary source research and familiarity with the background or context of a certain event, it was essential to have perspective. When asked to write about martial law or even Ninoy Aquino, he dodged by saying that one needed perspective:

"Betty Go-Belmonte asked me to write about Ninoy Aquino for the 1985 Fookien Times Yearbook. I replied that I cannot write on Aquino because there is no perspective. At one time last year, last December 1983, Jaime Cardinal Sin asked me, 'How long will it take a historian to judge Marcos?' I said ten to twenty years, because there must be perspective. And even that, I said, we cannot be sure, because not all the documents are in. That is why historical conclusions are not final. They are all tentative, because no historian can say that I have exhausted all the documents.

"... That's why I told Betty Go-Belmonte I cannot write [on Ninoy] because there is no perspective. *Walang* perspective *eh*. You cannot describe a mountain if you are in the mountain. You need to go far in order to see it; only then can you describe the mountain. You cannot describe the beauty of Mayon if you are right there on Mayon. To see the beauty of Mayon, you have to go far so you have perspective. History is like that. It is not like Political Science where you can predict ... and if you are proven wrong, you blush in shame, but not the historian. Historians deal with the past, not the present, not the future ...

"That's why I told Cardinal Sin you need from ten to twenty years. However much I dislike Marcos, we must give him the right to speak for himself. That is the duty of the historian. That is impartiality, not objectivity. Impartiality is giving the other fellow the chance to defend himself. Let Marcos defend himself before the bar of history and then you can judge better when there is enough perspective. I think Betty will keep that letter of mine, because when the passion and fashion disappear, then that is the time to write (*laughs*)."

Agoncillo was saying all this in 1984, shortly before he passed away. It was a time of tumult, a time when the ground was being laid for the 1986 People Power. There were demonstrations and rallies galore, usually violently dispersed. There was an "alternative" press in place. People were growing angry, impatient for change. So I asked Agoncillo why should it take so long for such recent history to be written when it was urgently needed.

Agoncillo replied simply, "That is history."

When I pressed and said people were growing impatient, he said, "Let them be impatient. I will not be stampeded by the herd, not be part of it. Let the herd go where it wants to graze (*laughs*) I will not follow."

Agoncillo is long dead, the two decades he required to gain perspective on Marcos, martial law and Ninoy Aquino have passed, and we have yet to see a history of the past two decades. At one point in my life, I decided to drop the late 19th-century Philippines on which I made a career and go either to the Marcos years or go far back into the pre-Spanish period. The problem with the latter is that it goes beyond history, going beyond written records into the pre-historic past. It is not history anymore, but more the realm of archeology and anthropology. Since I was not academically prepared for the pre-colonial Philippines, I settled for Marcos.

There were a lot of participants from those times willing to be interviewed for an oral history. That required time and a lot of background reading in the newspapers of the period, both pro and anti-Marcos, and these were readily available as were the primary source documents. After 1986, there was some excitement over the so-called "Marcos Diaries" that were allegedly left in Malacañang when they fled in 1986, but nobody has heard of those again.

Then, there is the great compilation, available on microfilm, of declassified US State Department records on Marcos that span his entire career, from the time he was a *promdi* congressman from Ilocos to the time he landed in Hickham Air Force Base in Honolulu in 1986.

Overwhelmed by all this, I returned to the Philippine Revolution and the Filipino-American War. Thus, the material is ready for the picking, we have the perspective, but where are the workers in the vineyard?

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

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Business call: settle Poro Point row

WE WOULD LIKE TO CORRECT THE impression that the business entities using the Poro Point seaport in San Fernando City are "hesitant to have their vessels dock at the port because of the ongoing government effort to take over the facility." (PDI, 9/9/06)

Our company's concern is not so much on who will run the port—the government or a private contractor—as long as the ships we have chartered are able to dock and unload our cargoes in the port on time, and we are made to pay reasonable fees. In fact, when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued the cease-and-desist order (CDO) against Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) on July 25, 2006, our company was still making arrangements with three shipping companies for the transport of our goods to the port.

On April 2, 2006, we had advanced P4 million to the Poro Industrial Port Services Inc. (Pipsi) and PPIC as payment for their services. But barely a day after our ships docked at the Poro Point seaport on Aug. 4, and as we were unloading our cargoes, the PPIC told us to stop and leave the port without informing us of the reason.

We only found out later that it was because the PPIC was issued a CDO. Had we been immediately informed of the CDO, we could have immediately diverted our ships to a different port.

We were only able to dock and unload again when on Aug. 5, the Philippine Ports Authority took over the port operations. But then again, in the ensuing legal battle, the PPA was later issued a temporary restraining order and we had no choice but to divert our ships to the Subic Free Port in Olongapo City.

As a consequence, even if we had paid P800,000 to the PPIC for berthing and security maintenance fees for our two vessels, we had to pay the same amount again to the PPA when it took over the port. We have asked the PPIC to refund to us the fees we paid but until now, we still have to receive our money.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Fortunately for us, Pipsi returned the P2.6 million that we had paid in advance for cargo handling fees.

Like other fertilizer companies, Soil Tech wants the issues to be settled first before it starts docking at the Poro Point seaport again. The TRO issued by the court to the DENR could be lifted anytime and businessmen could be caught unawares again and asked to leave the port while unloading their goods.

How can we return if there are still some problems hounding the port? What is the guarantee that we will not suffer huge losses again?

—NOMER MORFE,
operations manager,
Soil Tech Agricultural Products Corp.,
California St., Barangay Madayegdeg,
San Fernando City, La Union

Practical questions AFP must answer to win the people's hearts and minds

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS declared an all-out war against insurgency. And within months Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commanding officer of the 7th Infantry Division, has claimed victory in Lupao, Nueva Ecija, which he said was a "center of gravity" of insurgency. (PDI, 9/4/06)

Now that "victory" has been secured, will the military still find it necessary to camp near schools and barangay halls? Will the military continue to say, even if just part of its psywar, that those who choose to leave the barangay will have to bring their houses with them for they will no longer have a house to go back to (which Palparan clarified as something his men might say but in fact would not do—burn down houses—since "we are your soldiers and you pay us our salary")?

Will someone still get his head covered with a plastic bag during tactical interrogation to the point of almost choking him (this has been personally brought to the attention of Lt. Col. Greg Cayetano, commanding officer of the 71st Infantry Brigade)? Will some priests and diocesan apostolates still experience some form of harassment (a written complaint has been sent to Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala, commanding officer of the 40th Infantry Brigade, regarding this)?

Will religious sisters still be suspected (Palparan said so during a meeting with the Diocese of San Jose) of working with the New People's Army just because they have chosen a far-flung barangay of Lupao, of all places, as their area of apostolate? And will rural folks be able to watch once again their favorite evening *teleserye* which they have been missing because they had to sleep early lest the military on their nightly *ronda* decide to drop by because their lights are still on?

These are practical questions but, if answered satisfactorily, they will go a lot farther in winning the hearts and minds of the people.

—FR. JESUS V. DUMAUAL, MSC,
(former parish priest of Lupao),
Sacred Heart Parish,
Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija

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PSALM in the dark about Balayan Electric press con

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Management Corp. (PSALM) wishes to clarify an allegation Victor Agustin made in his Sept. 13 column. He said: "For still unclear reasons, PSALM's Nieves Osorio stopped last Friday's press conference being called by Balayan Electric, a power company said to be controlled by ABC-5's Antonio Cojuangco and San Miguel's Ramon Ang. The press briefing was to be held in the SGV building, where PSALM has its offices."

We wish to point out that on the Friday Agustin referred to, concerned PSALM officials and employees, including Osorio, its president and chief executive officer, were at the Department of Energy for the auction of the Pantabangan-Masiway hydroelectric power complex. That auction, where PSALM received way far more bids than it expected, was won by First Generation Hydropower Corp. with a $129-million offer. The success of the bidding was the result of strong competition and the continued interest of investors in Philippine power assets.

If, indeed, Balayan Electric was to hold a press conference that Friday, PSALM did not know anything about it. How Osorio could have stopped a press conference she did not know anything about is something that we can't imagine. Besides, Osorio, or any other PSALM official for that matter, is not in any position to stop anybody's press conference. It has never been PSALM's practice to meddle in the affairs of other companies, whether or not these affairs have something to do with the privatization of the power industry.

It also remains unclear to us why Balayan Electric had to hold its press conference in the offices of PSALM, as Agustin implied in his column. If firms are interested in bidding for the assets of the National Power Corp., they can always join in consortiums being formed for the coming bidding of the 360-megawatt Magat hydroelectric power plant and the 25-year concession of the National Transmission Corp.

—FROILAN A. TAMPINCO,
vice president,
Asset Management and Electricity Trading,
Power Sector Assets and Liabilities
Management Corp. (PSALM),
SGV II Bldg., 6758 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

'Catch me, if you can'

"HOW'S MY DRIVING?" IS A QUESTION ONE wouldn't miss reading on the rear of every public utility vehicle in Metro Manila. The question is printed with the telephone numbers of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and the operator/owner of the vehicle.

Apparently, the "notice" would like to encourage us (the public) to help discipline drivers by reporting traffic violations to the LTFRB and the operator/owner. Well, how effective is this campaign? How many have been reported to the LTFRB for violation of traffic rules? How many operators have disciplined their reckless drivers?

With due respect to both the LTFRB and the operators, the above questions could only be answered by them. But how many violations were not reported by the public, which seems not to mind such violations? As an everyday commuter, I have observed the following most common traffic violations:

1. Trip-cutting
2. Beating the "red" light
3. Overspeeding
4. Smoking while driving
5. Ignoring road signs, such as no parking, no blowing of horn (city courts/hospital zones) and many more.
6. Loading and unloading in prohibited areas

How about the following? Do they fall under this campaign?

1. Refusal to accept passengers
2. Overloading
3. Smoke-belching vehicle
4. Broken, or absence of, tail-lights
5. Driving with short-pants and wearing slippers

And how about the licenses, are they in order?

With the blatant violations going on, I suggest that the question be changed into a taunt: "Catch me, if you can." With this, our traffic officers may yet be shamed into enforcing traffic rules.

—HENRY R. AUSTRIA,
College of Business,
AIMS, Pasay City

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Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

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MILF talks tough, says it's ready for new war

CAMP DARAPANAN, Maguindanao—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) talked tough yesterday, saying it was prepared to return to war should negotiations on territory, the thorniest of issues in ongoing peace talks with the government, lead to results not to its liking.

AN MILF guerrilla guards the exit of the MILF main camp in Darapanan in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, where guerrilla leaders held a press conference to warn of war over territory or ancestral domain. JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Negotiations on territory, which documents on the peace talks describe as issues of ancestral domain, bogged down in Kuala Lumpur.

Mohadger Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, in a press briefing here said the guerrillas were prepared for war if the issue on ancestral domain would remain unresolved.

Iqbal said the group was "technically" still at war with the government because the problems that brought the Bangsamoro people to war were still there.

"We can afford to go to war, especially now that the government is in a hurry and it is setting aside what we had agreed before," Iqbal said in the press conference.

Iqbal said that as a revolutionary organization, the MILF was always on a war footing and its forces were always prepared to resume the fight.

"The government is duplicating what it did with the Moro National Liberation Front. Instead of addressing the root cause of the problem, [its leaders] ... are on parallel negotiations," he said.

In 2000, more than a million people were displaced when then President Joseph Estrada declared an "all-out war" policy aimed at dismantling MILF camps in Mindanao.

Earlier, government negotiators rejected the MILF proposal for an extraconstitutional solution to the issue of territory.

"The government's chief negotiator (Silvestre Afable Jr.) said that what we were asking (for) was extraconstitutional. But they have to understand that we are a revolutionary organization. Other countries have done it. If we will do the same, we are finished," Iqbal said.

MILF chief Ebrahim Murad, in a statement, warned that the peace talks might collapse.

Murad said that during the latest talks in Malaysia, the government had no political will to push hard for the negotiated political settlement of the Bangsamoro problem when it has the opportunity to move the process to new heights.

"Do we need to replicate this failure, prolong the sufferings of the people, and extend the war in Mindanao?" he said.

"It continues to cling to such outmoded template that everything must be tailor-fit to the Philippine Constitution which the present administration wants to change because it no longer responds to the needs of the people," Murad added.

Murad said the government "is so attached to its old self, despite the fact that it has already agreed to open new formulas in resolving this conflict as stipulated in the Tripoli Agreement."

Peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILF started without a third-party international facilitator in January 1997. On March 24, 2001, Malaysia, at the behest of the Philippine government, started to facilitate the talks. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

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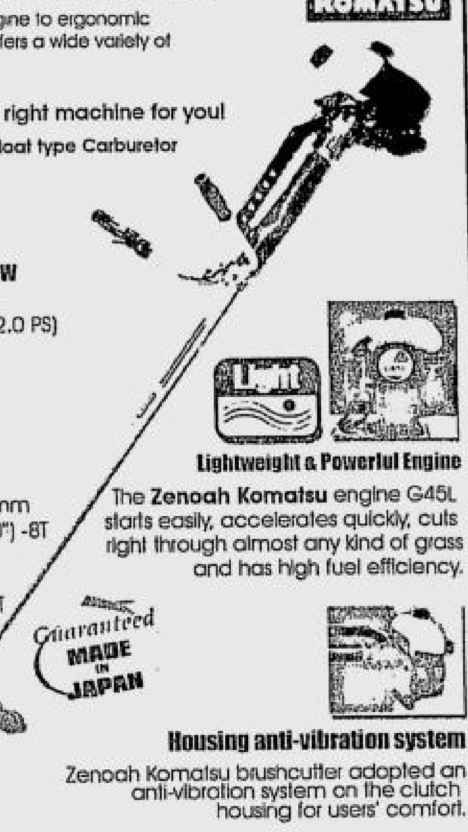

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The nation celebrates
The 10th National Urban Pest Control Week
4th Week of September, 2006 * Per Presidential Proclamation 990/s-97

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA
MESSAGE

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) as you spearhead the celebration of the *10th National Urban Pest Control Week*.

I laud your staunch advocacy and steadfast efforts in working for a pest- and disease-free country. Over the years, you have helped prevent the spread of diseases and minimize the loss of valuable resources by effectively implementing environmentally-sound urban pest control technologies and practices.

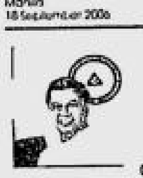
As we celebrate National Urban Pest Control Week with the theme, "*Quality Food means More Business and Stability*," I expect you to become more resolute in working towards a cleaner environment that would be conducive to quality food production, business and trade.

Our 10-point legacy agenda on socio-economic and political reforms envisions our economy growing and flourishing and our country achieving self-sufficiency in the areas of food, healthcare and energy. I am glad to have you as partner in this and all other endeavors that impact national interest. Together, we can beat the odds and realize our national aspiration of a better quality of life for all Filipinos.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President of the Philippines

Manila
18 September 2006



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) as it celebrates the 10th National Urban Pest Control Week on September 18-24, 2006.

The theme of this year's celebration: "*Quality Food Means More Business and Stability*," reflects what should be the primary focus of the food industry if it is to survive competition. Health and sanitation are indispensable elements in efficient food manufacturing and processing.

The national conference entitled "1st Food Industry Sanitation and Urban Pest Management: A National Conference" held in conjunction with this event will provide opportunities for improvement, with a long-term pest management strategy more resonant now than ever in an industry that is faced with stiff global competition.

I commend the NCUPC for its significant achievements in the field of urban pest control. I exhort the men and women of the NCUPC and the supporting national agencies to further persevere in this worthwhile endeavor as it helps in attaining our objective of sustainable development for our country.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

NOLI "KABAYAN" L. DE CASTRO
Vice President of the Philippines

Manila, 8 May 2006

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Manila
MESSAGE

My sincerest greetings and felicitations to the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) as you celebrate your 10th National Urban Pest Control Week on September 18-24, 2006

Your chosen theme, **Quality Food Means More Business and Stability**, is in sync with NCUPC's current thrust to assist our government in its lead to move the country's economy forward. Indeed, our efforts to overcome the difficulties of our time will surely be of great help to our people. This time calls for active participation in addressing the country's economic turmoil by ensuring abundance and affordability of quality foods. This will spell more business opportunities and activities that could result to economic stability and progress.

I firmly support your objectives and pray for more fruitful years ahead. I look forward to the successful fruition on your noteworthy undertaking.

MABUHAY!

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Mayor

PROGRAMME
"1st FOOD INDUSTRY SANITATION AND URBAN PEST MANAGEMENT: A NATIONAL CONFERENCE"

THEME: "Quality Food Means More Business and Stability."

PROGRAM CONTENTS FOR CONFERENCE PROPER
(September 22, 2006, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.)

On-Site Registration of Participants 8.00 - 9.00
PART 1 (Opening Ceremonies)
Invocation
MRS. NANCY RUSSELL CATAN

Philippine National Anthem
Opening Remarks
DR. METODIO A. PALAYPAY
Executive Director, (NCUPC)

Welcome Remarks
DR. JOSE A. SABILI
President, Philippine Medical Association

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker
DR. METODIO A. PALAYPAY
Executive Director, (NCUPC,

Keynote Addresses
HON. EMELDA C. PERALTA
Chairperson,
Board of Nutrition and Dietetics—PRC

HON. JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
City Mayor, City Government of Manila

Coffee Break 10:15 - 10:30

PART 2 (Conference Proper)
State of the Art: Philippine Food Industry/ Are We Meeting The Global Challenges? 10:30 - 11:00
Speaker. MS. EDNA F. BARIN
R&D Manager, Jollibee Foods Corporation

Food Sanitation Requirement: GMP, Quality Assurance & Sanitation Standards 11.00 - 11:30
Speaker: DR. SONIA Y. DE LEON
President
Foundation For The Advancement Of Food Science & Technology

Open Forum 11:30 - 12:00
Lunch Break 12:00 - 1:00

Common Urban Pest Affecting The Food Industry: Their Implications On Manufactured/Processed Products 1:00 - 1:30
Speaker: DR. JOSEPH Y. ARICHETA, MPH/CSEE
Medical Specialist'/Sanitary Inspector III
Environmental & Occupational Health,(DOH)

Product Contamination/Adulteration And Pest Hazard Reduction 1:30 - 2:00
Speaker. HON. LETICIA BARBARA B. GUTIERREZ, MS
Director
Bureau of Food & Drugs,(DOH)

Open Forum 2:00 - 2:15

Researches Undertaken On Safety Standards To Update/Upgrade The Food Industry 2:15 - 2:45
Speaker: DR. MILAGROS MAGSANOC
Dean, School of Tourism,
Hotel & Restaurant, And Food Science
Philippine Women's University—Manila

Coffee/ Short Break 2:45 - 3:00

Updates: Urban Pest Control/Enviro-Related Products & Technologists Designed For Adoption By The Food Industry 3.00 - 3.45
Speaker: HON. GONZALO O. CATAN, JR.
Vice Chairperson, Board of Agriculture, (PRC)
Technical Director, NCUPC

Open Forum 3:45 - 4:00

Part 3 (Closing Ceremonies)
Closing Remarks/Oath Taking as Members of the NCUPC
DR. METODIO A. PALAYPAY
Executive Director, (NCUPC;

Presentation of Participants & Distributions of Certificates of Participation/ Appearance
DR. METODIO A. PALAYPAY
HON. GONZALO O. CATAN, JR.

Closing Prayer
MRS. RUTH MARIE C. ATIENZA

Souvenir Photo-Taking

MR. BARBIE L. ATIENZA
Vice President for External Affairs, Manila Bulletin
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

10th NATIONAL URBAN PEST CONTROL WEEK CONFERENCE
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September 22, 2006
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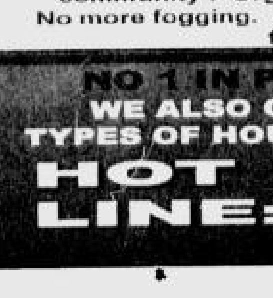

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

An elusive dream

By Frank Cimatu
Bauko, Mt. Province

TWENTY YEARS AGO, THEN President Corazon Aquino, her brother-in-law, Agapito "Butz" Aquino, then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos, and Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile gathered at Mt. Data Hotel in Bauko, Mt. Province, to talk peace with rebel priest Conrado Balweg.

'[Cordillera] peace without development is just a prolonged ceasefire, and development without peace is just relief and rehabilitation'

Balweg, at that time, had left the New People's Army and formed the Cordillera People's Liberation Army.

The groups settled on holding an "*allasiw*," the ritual exchange of weapons to symbolize the cessation of hostilities.

Balweg gave a head axe and a warrior's shield to Aquino, who, in turn, gave him a Bible, a rosary and an Armalite rifle.

It was the best of times and the worst of times. The strength of the NPA in the Cordillera was at its height then, with environmentally harmful development projects like that of Cellophil Resources Corp. in Abra and the Chico River Dam in Kalinga galvanizing the people's resolve to wage war against the government.

'Sipat'

Balweg was the symbolic leader, a Tingguian who became a priest and later joined the underground because of Cellophil. The project had threatened to wipe out the forests of Abra, Mt. Province and Kalinga for rayon exported to Japan.

When Balweg broke away from the NPA, the newly installed Aquino administration found a chance to negotiate for peace. On Sept. 13, 1986, the *allasiw* was held to start the "*sipat*" or cessation of hostilities.

A memorandum of agreement between the CPLA and the AFP formalizing the agreement was signed by Brig. Gen. Jesus de la Cruz and Brig. Gen. Manuel Ribu, representing the AFP, and Balweg, representing the rebel group.

Witnesses were Leonardo Musling, Mariano Agosto, Mario Yag-ao, Ina Indammeg and Lourdes Limmayog, for the CPLA, and Teodoro Benzon, for the government.

Balweg raised a 26-point demand, which was discussed in a series of dialogues that led to the signing of a joint statement of the government and CPLA panels on March 27, 1987.

Optimism was high for Cordillera autonomy—the buzzword policy at that time. The 1987 Constitution provided the requirements toward attaining autonomy for the northern region and Muslim Mindanao.

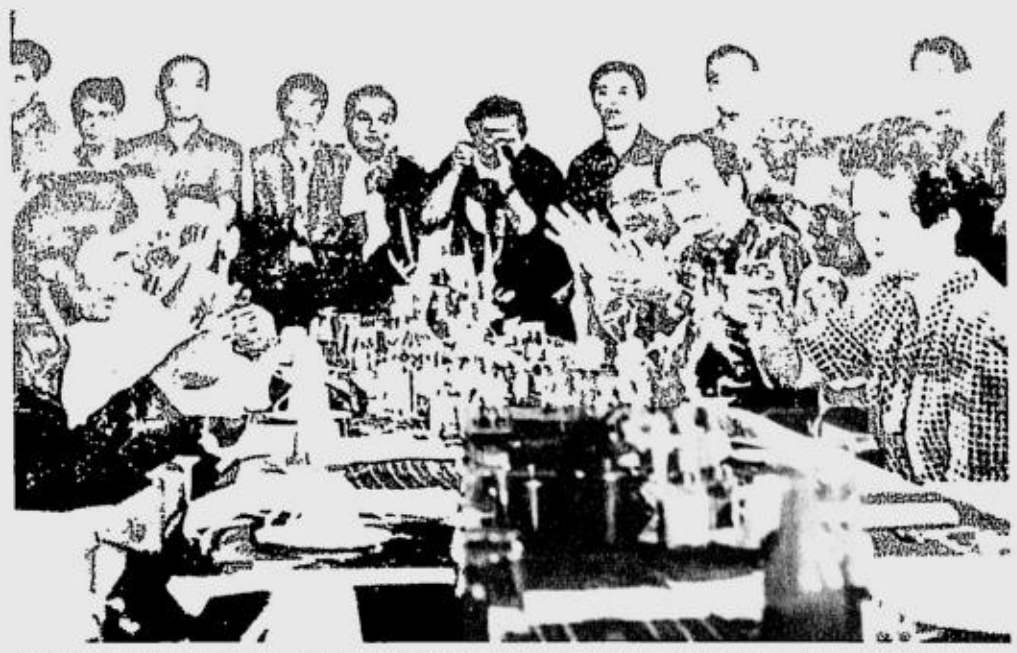
In July 1987, Aquino signed Executive Order No. 220 creating the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) out of Ifugao, Kalinga and Apayao from Cagayan Valley, and Abra, Benguet, Mt. Province and Baguio City from the Ilocos.

The Mt. Data *pagta* (accord) became an international media event. Gongs were played and probably deafened the gods who would wage the peace.

Middle of nowhere

Twenty years later, Mt. Data Hotel is still an idyllic resort inn in the middle of nowhere. President Macapagal-Arroyo and the other major players in forging the pact were not around to commemorate the event.

Balweg was assassinated on Dec. 31, 1999 in his family house in Malibcong, Abra, by NPA members. With him died his dream of a "Cordillera nation."



THEN President Corazon Aquino (right) and rebel priest Conrado Balweg (left), head of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army, meet at Mt. Data Hotel in Bauko, Mt. Province. INQUIRER PHOTO

The rosary is with Agosto, the Bible is with the Limmayog family, and the Armalite is with a CPLA unit based in Barangay Bugnay in Tinglayan, Kalinga.

Nobody bothered to bring these historic items to the celebration at Mt. Data last week, which was intended to be a "*dornat*," the indigenous ritual of warming up the peace pact.

The government sent Nabil Tan, deputy presidential adviser on the peace process; Brig. Gen. Alex Yapching, chief the Army's 5th Infantry Division; and Mt. Province Gov. Maximo Dalog.

Better bind

Dalog said the Mt. Data accord was the most significant event that ever happened in the Cordillera because it brought peace and tranquility to the region and consequently the issuance of EO 220 that established the CAR.

"We in the Cordillera are now in a better bind than when there was [conflict] in our region and when our Cordillera provinces either belonged to Region 1 (Ilocos) or Region 2 (Cagayan Valley)," he said.

"It is, however, regrettable that our common aspirations did not propel us more to establish a true and real Cordillera autonomy that we wanted. Some idealists clamored for 'genuine' autonomy, while others among us opted for status quo, meaning a regular administrative region," he said.

"[U]p to now, I cannot fathom under the recesses of my heart what 'genuine' autonomy means. I hope someone would define for me the parameters of a genuine autonomy, given our actual situations. Yet, it was this issue that so factionalized our people during that great debate on Cordillera autonomy."

Balweg's widow Corazon said that dream remains elusive. "The dream of autonomy was not realized. It was the focus of the struggle," she said.

Bucloc (Abra) Mayor Mailed Molina, who was one of Balweg's lieutenants, said the integration of the CPLA into the AFP was not yet fully realized. He said only 1 percent was thus integrated.

In a statement, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza said 264 CPLA members had been integrated into the AFP and police, while 528 had been absorbed into the paramilitary forces.

Ten "Kalayaan" barangays (those formerly controlled by insurgency forces) in the Cordillera were included in the OPAPP (Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process) livelihood projects, receiving P5 million each.

Prolonged ceasefire

Autonomy is not always the perfect solution to poverty, Tan said.

Of the P5.6 billion start-up budget promised for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (and for the CAR, had it been approved in the 1990 or 1998 plebiscites), 87 percent went to salaries of the region's employees, he said.

He said the Cordillera should be prepared to create income for its people for its own security.

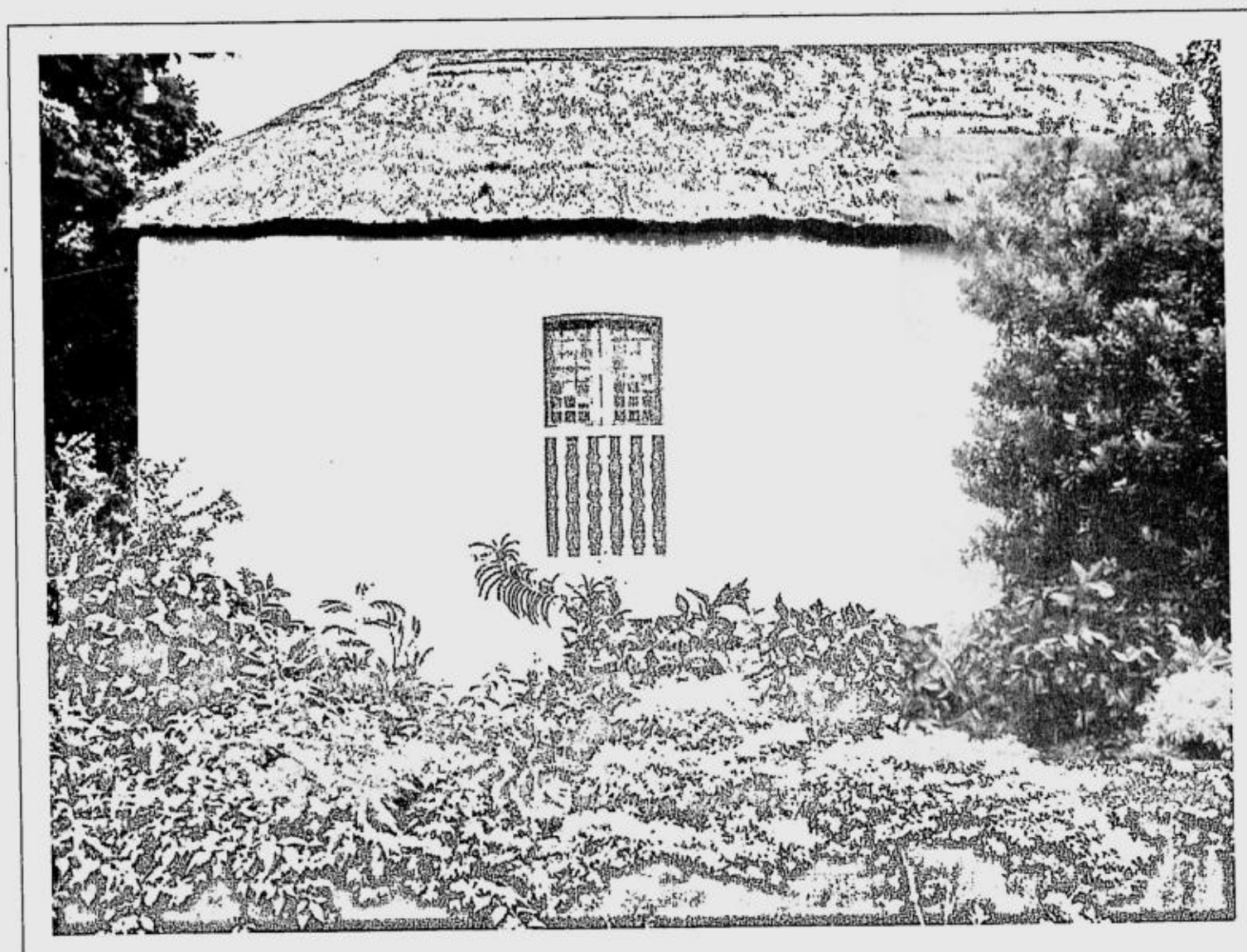
"Peace without development is just a prolonged ceasefire, and development without peace is just relief and rehabilitation," he said.

Tan said the region should prepare for a better negotiating position if its leaders did not want to repeat the problems confronted by the ARMM.

"When I talk to Corazon (Balweg) and the others, I still see the enthusiasm. I don't see that among the ARMM leaders," he said.

Maybe Tan heard it wrong. After the *dornat*, there was no sound from celebratory gongs. After a few hours, Mt. Data Hotel was again silent.

Order to stop 'jueteng' not heeded in Cavite



SOMEWHERE NORTH
This house in Batanes belongs to former acting education secretary Fe Hidalgo, an Ivatan. Renovated years ago, the house is now made of cement instead of the traditional stone and lime. Its walls are still a meter thick and its windows small. BLANCHE RIVERA

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Despite the stern warning from Philippine National Police chief Director Gen. Oscar Calderon, the illegal numbers game 'jueteng' still continues to operate in most parts of Cavite, a source told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The source, who asked not to be identified so as not to compromise his position, said the underground lottery was still being drawn at least twice a day in the towns of Silang, Alfonso, Naic, Tanza, Dasmariñas, Mendez, Magallanes, Imus, Gen. Trias, Rosario and Gen. Mariano Alvarez.

The same source said that since Calderon issued his deadline to eradicate jueteng at the end of this month, game operators "totally stopped" their activities in all parts of the Calabarzon region, except in Cavite.

In the Bicol region, Chief Supt. Victor Boco, Bicol police director, said jueteng had stopped in the region following his ultimatum to his provincial directors to strictly follow Calderon's order.

Last to stop was in Sorsogon, despite a crackdown by police headed by Senior Supt. Joel Regondola.

Police identified the jueteng operator in Sorsogon as Leony Lim.

Jueteng operators in Cavite, the police source said, switched to guerrilla operations.

"But despite their limited operations, they're able to collect at least P1.5 million daily from their 'cobradores' (bet collectors)," the source revealed.

He pointed to a certain Ebeng and Gani Cupcupin as the maintainers of the illegal gambling in Cavite.

He said the two have the "consent" of an elder brother of a ranking government official in Cavite.

The government official was not identified.

"They even have the go-signal of the police officials in Camp Pantaleon Garcia in Imus," the source said.

The camp is the headquarters of the Cavite provincial police office.

Asked for comment, Supt. Rodel Sermonia, intelligence chief of the Cavite provincial police, vehemently denied that jueteng still persists in the province.

He also denied that police officials acted as coddlers of jueteng operators.

"*Wala talagang jueteng sa* area *namin* (jueteng does not exist in our area)," Sermonia said in a text message.

The source said several unscrupulous politicians had been tolerating jueteng in their areas "so they could have funds for next year's elections."

In an earlier report, jueteng sources in Central Luzon said while the government was trying to promote small town lottery as an alternative, policemen and politicians were demanding bigger shares from STL operations in the same way they were getting shares from jueteng. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Church stand ignored as STL starts running in Negros towns

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—DESPITE OPposition from the Catholic Church here, the small town lottery (STL) has started operating in five cities and two towns in Negros Occidental, Manapla Mayor Manuel Escalante said.

Manapla, who is the president of the Negros Association of Chief Executives, said yesterday more STL outlets would open in other areas in two weeks.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra yesterday said that the Diocese of Bacolod continues to oppose STL and will continue to campaign from its pulpits to stop the people from patronizing it.

Earlier, Navarra said that the STL would distort the values of the people who, instead of relying on work, will pin their hopes on gambling.

The STL also introduces the youth to gambling, he said.

According to Escalante, the STL began operations Friday in San Carlos, Escalante, Sagay, Cadiz and Silay cities, and Manapla and Hinigaran towns.

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office earlier granted the Super Lucky Beagler Inc. the authority to operate STL in Negros Occidental.

Escalante said the STL bet collectors wear uniforms and have identification cards. Those collecting STL bets without the proper uniform and IDs face arrests, he said.

The STL bettors pick two numbers from 1 to 38, and draws are held twice a day, at noon and 6 p.m., in Silay City for the whole province, Escalante said.

However, Silay Mayor Carlo Gamban said the draws will not be permanently held in Silay, and may be transferred to other areas in the province after a month.

Trial of mayor, 3 others in publisher's slay resumes

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—After a two-month lull, the trial of a mayor and three other men charged with the murder of a publisher in Aurora resumes today as the new judge on the case calls the parties to a case conference.

Judge Jansen Rodriguez set the meeting at 8:30 a.m. at Branch 6 of the regional trial court in Manila, the new venue approved by the Supreme Court in a resolution on July 17.

Public prosecutor Nestor Lazaro, the counsel for the private complainant Rosebelle Cruz, the daughter of slain publisher Philip Agustin, will attend the meeting to enable the parties to agree on the number of witnesses and dates of the trial.

Reynaldo Morete, one of the accused who turned witness, could not be presented in Wednesday's schedule due to "security reasons," Lazaro told the INQUIRER by phone. Morete has remained in the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation.

It cannot be immediately confirmed if Dingalan Mayor Jaime Ylarde, tagged by Cruz as the mastermind in the May 10, 2005 killing, would attend the conference or would send his lawyer.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Ylarde and Amado de Luna, warden of the provincial jail in the capital town of Baler.

Supt. Teodoro Saclolo, Aurora police director, said Ylarde remained in detention. The mayor has been suspended in June following his surrender to Baler Judge Armando Yanga, the first judge who handled the case.

Lazaro said he would request the transfer of custody of Ylarde to Manila, some 400 km south of Baler.

The two other accused—Nilo Morete and Manuel Alday—remain in hiding. They had established contacts with a local official but withdrew from plans to surface last year.

The case's preliminary investigation took almost a year to complete, with Ylarde initially dropped then included after Agustin's relatives asked Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to have the case reviewed.

Public prosecutors, including Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, asked the Supreme Court to transfer the trial to Manila, citing the supposed bias by Yanga and safety of Cruz and 13 witnesses as the reason.

Agustin, 54, was shot dead in Cruz's house in Dingalan hours after he arrived to deliver the special issue of the Starline Times Recorder.

His newspaper carried stories that exposed Ylarde's alleged misuse of funds intended for victims of landslides in November and December 2004. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Journalists in Cebu unite for Press Freedom Week

By Connie E. Fernandez
Executive editor
Cebu Daily News

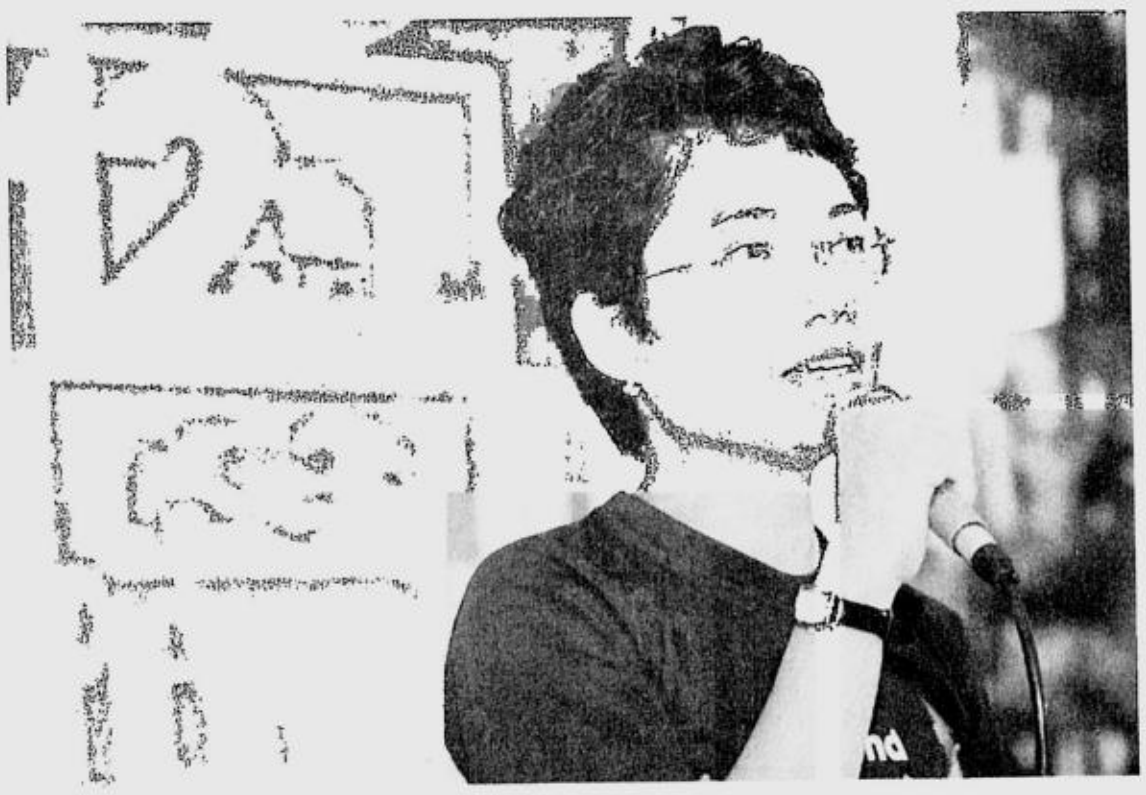
CEBU CITY—AT LEAST 800 print and broadcast journalists in Cebu on Sunday cast aside competition and joined the Press Freedom Walk to open the week-long celebration of press freedom.

The parade started at 7 a.m. at the Cebu Business Park and ended at the provincial capitol at a Mass officiated by Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal. The opening program followed.

The celebration of the 12th Cebu Press Freedom Week comes during a difficult period for Philippine journalists with nearly 60 of them killed in the line of duty since 1986, mostly outside Metro Manila.

"The Cebu experience has been markedly different, and we do our work for the most part in an atmosphere of peace, open debate and professional cordiality," said Eileen G. Mangubat, publisher of the Cebu Daily News, the lead convenor of this year's celebration.

"But the violence that has felled many of our media colleagues forces us to look deeper into why this happens and what is the media's role as a powerful force of positive change and truth-telling," she added.



EILEEN C. Mangubat, publisher of the Cebu Daily News, speaks at the opening of the Cebu Press Freedom Week. The CDN is lead convenor of the event that started with a Press Freedom Walk at the Cebu Business Park. CEBU DAILY NEWS PHOTO

The annual Press Freedom Week celebration is mounted by Cebu's newspapers—CDN, Sun.Star, the Freeman, and its sister tabloids—along with radio-TV outlets belonging to the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas-Cebu chapter under the auspices of the Cebu News Workers Foundation Inc. (Cenewof).

The week-long activities, which runs from Sept. 17 to 23, also include fellowship nights, photo exhibits, a quarterly meeting of the Cebu-Citizens Press Council, and forums on the risks and challenges of journalism, and the role of new media amid fast-changing technology.

A new documentary about the state of security of journalists, written and produced by Cebu editors, will be shown on Sept. 19 at the University of the Philippines Cebu College audiovisual room in Barangay Lahug.

On Wednesday, the challenge of new media, the Internet and fast-changing technology will be discussed in a 2 p.m. forum at the Marcelo B. Fernan Cebu Press Center in Sudlon, Cebu City. The 240-seat theater of the center will be a Wi-Fi hotspot, with wireless broadband capability installed for a session that includes an introduction to blogging.

The forum is a special installment of the McLuhan forum series on responsible media sponsored by the Embassy of Canada.

Governor points to councilors in brouhaha on travel

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN Del Sur—Gov. Adolph Edward Plaza said he did not invite this town's councilors to visit Thailand but it was an initiative of the lawmakers themselves.

Plaza said it was the Philippine Councilors League (PCL) provincial chapter that invited the town councilors after receiving an invitation on May 23 from Thailand officials to take an educational tour in Wang Nam Keow District.

Eric Mellana, PCL president who also sits as Sangguniang Panlalawigan member, said several town councilors in San Francisco wanted to drag the governor's name to pursue the Thailand trip although the town was in dire financial straits.

An INQUIRER report last week said Sangguniang Bayan member Alex Ranoco passed a resolution realigning P249,000 from the budget of non-office funds to pay for plane fare and allowances for the Thailand trip.

Five SB members, claiming they received invitation from

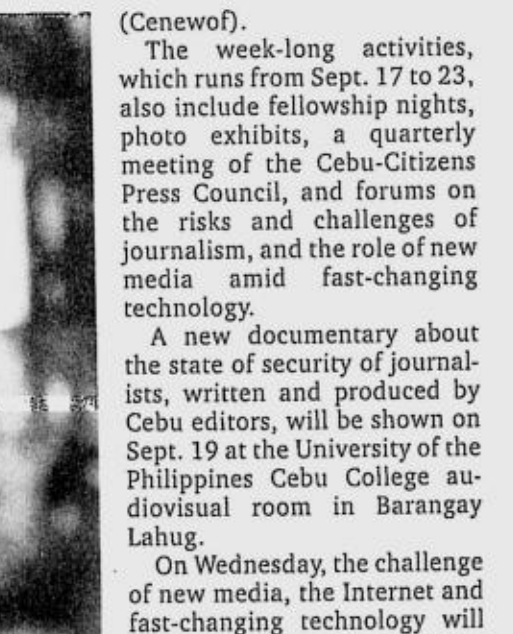
Plaza, pushed for the resolution despite the fund lack that is forcing the town to default on its electric and water payments.

But Mellana said he presented the invitation during a recent PCL meeting and the members agreed that they will send those who chaired the committee on agriculture while others can join, depending on the availability of funds in their towns.

He said the travel was purposely for agriculture committees in the town councils to gain experience in developing agriculture and also build good relationships between the country and Thailand.

"I can not allow the name of the governor to be dragged in the ongoing hullabaloo of San Francisco," Mellana said.

He said it was clear at the start that the travel depended on the availability of funds. "If the argument arises because of financial constraints facing the town, I think it is wise enough not to forego the trip and face the problem," he added. *Chris V. Panganiban, Inquirer Mindanao*



Marine officer killed, 21 soldiers wounded

From page A1

rebels were either killed or wounded in the clashes.

The military said the casualties it had suffered only strengthened its resolve to finish the fight and end the terror activities of the Abu Sayyaf and its allies from the Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asian militant group.

Maj. Eugene Batarra, Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) spokesperson, told the INQUIRER military operations would continue even with the advent of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

He said the Armed Forces of the Philippines could not afford to give the Abu Sayyaf a breather to regroup.

Ramadan starts next week.

GOVERNMENT soldiers fire artillery at rebel positions in Patikul, Sulu, in this photo taken on Sept. 15. REUTERS

A SOLDIER, wounded in recent fighting with the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo, recovers at a military hospital in Zamboanga City on Tuesday. REUTERS

Tanks into battle

Batarra said the military was optimistic it could get, dead or alive, Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani and JI operatives Dulmatin and Omar Patek.

Maj. Joseph Alegado, commander of the 11th Light Armor Battalion, said 10 tanks had been deployed with various units involved in the operation to help them push deeper into the jungles of Sulu.

The Air Force was also using helicopter gunships to target enemy positions.

Elated over the seizure of bomb materials in Zamboanga City, Ms Arroyo yesterday vowed her administration would not allow terrorists to launch attacks in the country.

'Stand fast'

In a televised roundtable discussion with other officials, she praised the police and the military for intercepting some 20 sacks of ammonium nitrate, a chemical commonly used in making bombs, that were shipped in a vessel that came from a port in Jolo.

Authorities believed that the chemicals were to be used by the Abu Sayyaf when Zamboanga celebrates an annual festival next month.

"We must stand fast and take the fight with them to their lairs and sanctuaries," Ms Arroyo said.

"Terrorist leaders and their cohorts are falling one by one. We are on the verge of wiping out the notorious Abu Sayyaf group permanently."

Higher casualty count

The President said security forces "are keeping an eye on the movements of terrorist explosive material and finances and they shall not be allowed to establish a foothold from which to launch deadly attacks against the people."

She urged the people to help the authorities in the fight against terrorism by "remain(ing) alert and giv(ing) us the tip-off on suspicious persons or cargo."

Chance encounter

Military officials believed the Abu Sayyaf had suffered a higher casualty count than the government forces in the recent series of encounters.

"We are on the offensive. We have the upper hand," insisted Col. Francisco Patrimonio, officer in charge of the Armed Forces Command Center.

The military has deployed about 6,000 Army and Marine troops in Sulu since Aug. 1.

In Monday's fighting in Maimbung in which 16 soldiers were wounded, officials said troops came upon some 50 rebels believed to be led by Abu Sayyaf commander Albader Parad.

The fighting went on for two-and-a-half hours before reinforcements arrived.

"It was more or less a chance encounter," Patrimonio said. He said most of the soldiers suffered "slight" wounds from M203 grenade shrapnel.

On the run

"The encounters lasted for only 15 to 20 minutes because the enemy would withdraw, they would disengage. Our enemies are always on the run," said Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan, the Marine spokesperson.

"We are not running after civilians. We are running after terrorist groups. Religion has nothing to do with our combat operations in the area," Caculitan said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Guimaras execs banking on London-based oil fund

From page A1

British group denies urging GMA to ban fishing in Guimaras

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A BRITISH MArine conservation group said it did not recommend to President Macapagal-Arroyo the imposition of a fishing ban in Guimaras, contrary to a statement by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Peter Raines, founder and chief executive officer of Coral Cay Conservation (CCC), said there was a "misinterpretation" of the discussion during his meeting with the President in London last week.

"At no point was there any discussion (or mention made) of the concept of a fishing ban anywhere in the Philippines; such a concept strikes against the founding principles for which Coral Cay Conservation stands," Raines said in his e-mailed message to Presidential Adviser for Western Visayas Rafael Coscolluela dated Sept. 18.

CCC is a nonprofit organization for the conservation of coral reefs and tropical forests. Its local partner is the Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc.

Bunye announced last week that a fishing ban would be declared in the waters around Guimaras and nearby islands affected by the oil spill. He said the President was heeding the advice of the conservation group.

Bunye, also the presidential spokesperson, had told reporters covering Ms Arroyo's trip to Europe, Hawaii and Cuba last week that the main recommendation of the CCC was to declare a fishing ban in Guimaras waters affected by the oil spill from the sunken tanker Solar I.

He said the President had instructed government officials to link up with CCC to map out the plan to ban fishing.

But in his e-mail, Raines said the CCC merely offered assistance in coral reef assessment and baseline surveys.

"These may help the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and concerned local governments to formulate a sustainable municipal fisheries program," he said.

Guimaras officials and fisherfolk organizations are protesting plans to impose a fishing ban.

Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava earlier warned that a fishing ban would have disastrous effects on about a third of the province's population of 155,000 who rely on small-scale fishing.

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those who have fallen sick because of toxic fumes from bunker fuel oil spilled by the MT Solar I.

"The victims of the oil spill are supposed to be covered by the IOPCF. The local government units know how to present their claims," Glenn Rabonza, executive officer of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, said.

High levels of hydrogen sulfide, a highly toxic gas, found in the villages of Tando, La Paz and Cabalagnan have sickened 29 people, including four children.

Malacañang yesterday said the government was monitoring the barangays affected by the oil spill.

"The health and safety of the residents in Guimaras are our utmost concern and we urge them to cooperate with the health authorities by staying away from health hazard zones and heeding evacuation orders implemented by the local authorities," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

The number of Guimaras residents evacuated due to the oil spill has risen as the latest results of laboratory testing showed toxicity in soil and water in three worst hit villages.

The number of evacuees in Nueva Valencia and Sibunag towns reached 201 families or around 600 people as of Sept. 17, according to a report of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council. Fifty-two families are staying in evacuation centers while the rest are with their relatives.

The total population of Guimaras' five towns is about 152,000, said the Provincial Economic Development Office and majority are directly or indirectly affected by the oil spill.

The processing for compensation started yesterday for people "sick or not sick as long as they are affected." said Nueva Valencia Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga.

More than a thousand residents of Nueva Valencia directly affected by the oil spill have filed for claims with IOPCF representatives, who arrived in Guimaras last week for an orientation on how to file claims.

The IOPCF, however, did not specify whether the people who became ill due to oil pollution could file claims for compensation.

In its March 2006 manual, the IOPCF said that to be entitled to compensation, the damage must result from oil pollution and the economic loss must be quantifiable.

Five areas

An oil pollution incident, according to the IOPCF manual, can give rise to claims for property damage, cost of cleanup operations at sea and on shore, economic losses by fishermen or those engaged in aquaculture, economic losses in the tourism sector, and cost for reinstatement of the environment.

As of March, the maximum amount payable for each incident is 203 million Special Drawing Rights (SDR) of the International Monetary Fund, equal to about $290 million for incidents covered by the 1992 Fund and 750 million SDR (about $1,100 million) for incidents which are also covered by the Supplementary Fund.

The Philippines has not ratified the Supplementary Fund Protocol and is thus entitled only to $290 million for incidents covered by the 1992 Fund.

Respiratory illnesses

Lydia Depra-Ramos, regional director of the Department of Health (DOH), said respiratory illnesses were the most common disease reported followed by skin diseases and stomach illnesses.

Ramos cited the examination conducted on 789 people in Nueva Valencia and Sibunag towns by the DOH-University of the Philippines-National Poison Management and Control Center on Sept. 4-7.

The four-page DOH-UP-NPMCC report dated Sept. 11 showed that toxicity remains present in the villages worst hit by the oil spill based on laboratory testing on urine and blood samples.

Blood testing conducted by the UP Department of Pharmacology on five residents of Barangay Tando showed that two were positive for sulfhemoglobin and ethemoglobin. One had above normal methemoglobin.

The samples, taken on Sept. 5-6 in Sitio Bagatnan in Panobolon village, showed levels of hydrogen sulfide that were above tolerable levels set by the United States Protection Agency Preliminary Remediation Goal (PRG).

The above-normal levels of hydrogen sulfide and other toxic substances were also recorded in Sitio Nauway in Barangay San Isidro in Sibunag town.

The laboratory results for drinking water, soil and crab samples showed levels of aromatic hydrocarbons in the villages of Tando, Lapaz and Cabalagnan.

The hydrocarbons are toxic components of bunker fuel that do not easily dissolve in water and are present in the air as vapors or absorbed in surfaces of small solid particles, according to the report.

The evacuees cannot return to their homes until the DOH issues an advisory, according to Ramos.

She said another round of testing would be conducted next week on the affected villages to determine any changes on toxicity.

The details of the level of toxic fumes and the ailments resulting from hydrogen sulfide were contained in the "MT Solar I Oil Spill Health and Environmental Recommendations," dated Aug. 28, which was not made public.

The report was made the basis for the Aug. 29 memorandum of the provincial government ordering the evacuation of residents of Barangays Cabalagnan, La Paz and Tando.

Intense heat

While the efforts to get compensation from the IOPCF continue, the affected residents have to put up with ailments, hunger and discomfort at the various relocation sites.

The authorities yesterday transferred more than nine families, relocated on Sept. 13 from the shores of Tando, Nueva Valencia, from the basketball court, where they were housed initially, to tents outside because of the intense heat from the GI sheet roofing.

Mayor Gonzaga said 10 doctors from the DOH and a municipal health officer assigned to Nueva Valencia were taking care of the evacuees.

"If the sick people can't pay for their medical bills, the municipal government will pay for them," said Gonzaga.

Ninety-two families or 432 people from Sitios Sumirib, Luzaran, Tigcalayo, Pototan and Alman Sur in La Paz have been evacuated since Aug. 30.

"When the oil spill was there, they didn't transfer us. Now that there's no more spill, they transferred us. I don't get it," said Arnel Elejan who stayed at the Tando's basketball court-cum-evacuation with his wife and four children.

Elejan and the other families were given only a drum of mineral water upon their arrival and had to contend with the intense heat of the noonday sun.

No beddings

There were no beddings and they were waiting for relief goods to arrive.

Marcelo Soreño, a 66-year-old fisherman from Tando, arrived from the Guimaras Provincial Hospital (GPH) on Sept. 13 only to find himself and his wife going straight to the evacuation area at the Tando Plaza as they were originally living within the restricted area 100 meters from the shore.

Marcelo had a bloated right leg, had stomachache and was vomiting and so he and his wife Merly, 51, proceeded to the GPH on Sept. 2 and stayed there for 11 days.

"We have already spent P1,000 at the hospital though they gave us three dextrose bottles for free. We had to leave the hospital because we have no more money to buy medicines," said Merly, a shell gatherer who is also employed by Petron at P300 a day for cleanup operations.

Marcelo, who could barely stand and talk, whispered to the INQUIRER that he waded in the oil-contaminated waters on Aug. 13 or two days after the sinking of the Solar I because his livelihood was getting empty bottles of mineral water that washed ashore.

He sells the bottles for P12 per kilo.

"We'd rather stay at the evacuation center because the stench of the oil (in Tando) is terrible but there is no light here (at the evacuation center), no rice, just a container of water," said Merly.

Editha Cayanan, 54, had swollen toes, which she said she got from wading in the waters of Tando on her way to the mud flats to gather shells.

"That was two days after the oil spill. What was I supposed to do? I won't have money for food," she said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Senior cop arrested for PDEA shabu rob

From page A1

PDEA Laboratory Service and now with the Philippine National Police Health Service and security guards Gean Granada and Oliver Fernandez.

Entrapment operation

Mutia was arrested at a popular shopping mall in Fairview yesterday after he was lured to the area by Padillo, who had been arrested earlier, police said.

"Let's meet at Fairview because I need some drugs to sell," Padillo supposedly told Mutia during a phone conversation, according to Caisip.

He said PDEA officers, who had eavesdropped on the conversation, immediately sent a team to arrest Mutia, who was to allegedly deliver 125 grams of shabu to a prospective buyer.

Caisip identified the two other suspects being hunted by the authorities as Supt. Gustavo Torres and PO1 Pedro Avelino.

P700-B industry

Called "the poor man's cocaine," shabu—or methamphetamine hydrochloride—is regarded as the top choice of Filipino drug users, followed by marijuana.

Illegal drugs have become a P700-billion industry in the country, with 6.7 million regular users of shabu as of 2005, Caisip said.

The Philippines is one of the world's three largest producers of shabu, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. A UNODC report said the main production sites in Asia were in China, Burma and the Philippines.

In 2003, UNODC said Filipinos were the world's fourth biggest consumers of amphetamine and methamphetamine, based on population percentage.

Felt betrayed

Caisip said one of the detained security guards, Granada, voluntarily surrendered to the PDEA the other day and pointed to the other suspects.

Caisip said Granada told investigators he had become disenchanted with the group for failing to give him his share of P1 million for the theft of the shabu held in evidence.

In an affidavit, Granada claimed Mutia masterminded the theft and that he was given only P135,000 as his share of the loot.

Granada had also begun to fear for his life, according to Caisip.

Money now, bullet later

"One day, he was getting money. He was afraid that the next day, he would get a bullet to his head," Caisip said.

He said the discovery by investigators of Granada's fingerprint on the door of the evidence room "added to his anxiety."

The PNP Crime Laboratory had fingerprinted all PDEA personnel as part of the investigation.

The stolen shabu was part of a haul of 69 kilos seized by PDEA personnel at the Bureau of Customs three years ago.

Investigation of the theft revealed that the thieves used a bolt cutter on three padlocks of the evidence room when an electrical blackout hit the PDEA headquarters.

"This is the first time that this has happened [with materials stored] in the PDEA evidence room," Caisip said.

Marcos victims' hopes boosted

From page A1

In a revised decision, the court said the money, while only a small part of the $2 billion awarded to Marcos' victims in a 1995 decision by Judge Manuel Real of the US District Court in Hawaii, would have "symbolic significance" and will have monetary meaning for the poorest of the claimants.

$2,000 payment

Each victim would get an initial payment of about $2,000.

The $35 million would come from a New York brokerage account that Marcos opened in 1972 with a $2-million deposit. The account is in the name of the Arelma Foundation, a dummy corporation formed by the Marcoses.

That ends the case for the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, Broder said.

But she said she also received word from the Philippine government on Monday that it intended to file a petition with the US Supreme Court to hear an appeal of the case.

In July, Camilo Sabio, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, said that in the "remote" event that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decided against the PCGG, the commission would take the matter up to the United States Federal Supreme Court.

The PCGG is tasked with recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies.

Broder said, however, she was optimistic the PCGG move would not prevail because the court receives thousands of such appeals and hears only a few.

RP opposes payment

Lawyers for the Philippines also are seeking a hold on the money which is in the custody of the court in Hawaii. Broder said plaintiffs' attorneys will oppose any further delay in payments.

"The Republic of the Philippines doesn't want to see the money distributed to the victims, so it's doing everything it can to obstruct," said Broder, who has joined with Honolulu lawyer Jon M. Van Dyke and Robert A. Swift of Philadelphia in representing the victims.

The victims, most of them living in the Philippines, have been seeking to recover money from the 1995 verdict to settle allegations of abuse during Marcos' 20-year rule that ended with the People Power revolution of 1986. The unpaid $2-billion award has nearly doubled to $4 billion.

FERDINAND Marcos and wife Imelda during happier times in Malacañang. FILE PHOTO

Marcos and his wife, Imelda, fled to Hawaii where the dictator died in exile in 1989. Imelda, who returned to the Philippines, also has tried to claim the money.

The PCGG has rejected any compromise on a $35-million account with the victims of human rights violations of the Marcos regime.

Sabio had said that any deal with the victims would relinquish the country's right to sovereign immunity under international law.

No legal wrong

The doctrine of "sovereign immunity" provides that the government cannot commit a legal wrong and is immune from civil suit or criminal prosecution.

Two months ago, Sabio said the consequences of giving up the country's sovereign immunity would be incalculable.

Because a deal with the victims would be "grossly disadvantageous to the government," any PCGG official who took part in it "would open himself up to graft charges whether or not he would profit thereby," Sabio said.

Besides, the funds from which the compensation would come "indisputably belong to the government" based on a July 16, 2003, ruling of the Philippine Supreme Court. The ruling awarded some $650 million in frozen Marcos Swiss bank accounts to the government.

"When we submit the compromise agreement to Judge Real, we are submitting to the jurisdiction and authority of the US district court, and we are immune. The US district court has no power over the Republic of the Philippines, unless it does (relinquish its immunity) so voluntarily," Sabio said.

The PCGG chair said he was for the granting of just compensation to the victims of the Marcos regime but determining who the victims were and how much was just compensation should be left up to the Philippine Congress and courts.

"We would like the Philippine Congress and the Supreme Court to determine this matter. The bill in Congress provides for the process by which the human rights victims can be identified. We should not submit to the jurisdiction of the US court," Sabio said, referring to a bill in Congress that would allocate P8 billion to the victims.

Bills on compensation

Bills seeking to indemnify the human rights victims have been stuck in Congress.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has said she would support legislation to set aside a certain amount of the money as compensation for the victims of human rights violations under Marcos.

Since 1986, the government has recovered a total of P60.8 billion in ill-gotten wealth from the Marcoses and their cronies, according to the PCGG.

Under Republic Act No. 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, all ill-gotten wealth recovered from the Marcoses should be spent on land reform. *AP*

Gunmen in bonnets kill another activist

From page A1

San Fernando and Calamba to denounce the extrajudicial executions and leftist leaders criticized the investigative commission headed by former Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Melo.

Police Supt. Elizear Bron said Lunar was cleaning his yard in Barangay Sta. Rita II, Del Gallego, Camarines Sur, on Saturday when one of 11 men shot him with a .45-cal. pistol.

Lunar succumbed from two gunshot wounds in the head. Recovered from the scene were two .45-cal. shells, Bron said.

Lunar was the second leftist leader in Bicol gunned down in less than two months.

On Aug. 3, Pastor Isaias Sta. Rosa, 47, of the United Methodist Church was shot outside his house in Barangay Malobago, Daraga, Albay.

Early reports said evidence gathered by a 12-member team from the United Methodist Church pointed to soldiers of the Army's 9th Infantry Division as the killers of Sta. Rosa, who was also a member of the leftist Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bicol.

Calamba protest

Some 1,000 protesters marched across Calamba and neighboring cities for a second day yesterday to protest 142 political murders in the area since 2001. The protest was staged a day after Ms Arroyo returned from a trip to Europe, where leaders there expressed concern over the surge in extrajudicial executions.

Relatives carried pictures of the fatalities and headbands that read "Stop political killings."

Doris Cuario, secretary general of the Southern Tagalog chapter of Karapatan, criticized Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon's statement that the military had effectively reduced the number of New People's Army guerrillas with the help of the P1-billion additional budget.

"The truth is that the P1 billion has been used by the military in killing innocent civilians and members of progressive organizations and in perpetrating human rights violations against the people," Cuario claimed.

'Caravan for human rights'

Bayan led a "caravan for human rights" in San Fernando. An eight-by-six-foot streamer showing the so-called record of human rights violations by the Arroyo administration was mounted on a jeep leading the activists' convoy of 15 vehicles and 1,000 marchers.

The streamer showed some photographs of the 109 activists who were killed in the area since 2001.

The Central Luzon contingent will link up with members of Bayan in Southern Luzon and other regions for a rally at Liwasang Bonifacio on Sept. 21 to mark the anniversary of the declaration of martial law in 1972 by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Leaflets distributed among motorists and commuters included criticism of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the retired commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division blamed for some of the political killings.

Conditioning the public

In Congress, Bayan party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño said the Melo Commission was setting up leftists for hanging by "trying to condition the public's mind that we're enemies of the state."

He said this came out in General Esperon's testimony on Monday before the commission formed by Ms Arroyo to investigate the extrajudicial executions.

"They want to confuse the public," said Casiño in an interview. "This is the normal trend when the government wants to eliminate its perceived enemies, so that it can easily justify the killings later on."

Also yesterday, Malacañang announced it was not keen on Amnesty International's proposal to expand the Melo Commission to include independent personalities from human rights groups experienced in documenting assassinations.

"The commission is moving ahead methodically and judiciously in fulfilling its mandate," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"Let us not prejudge the commission but instead support its pursuit of justice for its victims and recommending effective measures to put an immediate stop to these lawless acts."

AI proposal 'absurd'

Administration lawmakers also opposed the AI proposal.

Representatives Benasing Macarambon (NPC, Lanao del Sur) and Monico Puentevella (Lakas, Bacolod City) said the AI should stop making "absurd proposals because these only expose the organization's desire to become part of the Melo Commission."

Former President Fidel Ramos urged the commission to identify and punish individuals liable for human rights violations and avoid focusing on institutions in its ongoing investigation.

He said this would show the international community that the country was not "a hotbed of human rights violators."

The leftist workers group Kilusang Mayo Uno yesterday said it would file in the International Labor Organization and the United Nations Human Rights Council cases pertaining to political killings in the Philippines. ***With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Nikko Dizon, Michael Lim Ubac, Jerome Aning, Norman Bordadora in Manila, Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Niña Catherine Calleja, INQUIRER Southern Luzon, and Tonette Orejas, INQUIRER Central Luzon***

World Bank says RP gaining in war against poverty

From page A1

corruption and environmental degradation have emerged, according to the report.

Using a poverty line of $2 a day, the World Bank report estimated that 585 million East Asians were still poor—about 375 million in China, 100 million in Indonesia, 40 million in Vietnam, 35 million in the Philippines and about 30 million in the other countries in the region.

This placed the Philippines' $2 a day poverty line at 41.9 percent of the population, lower than the 47.2 percent in 2000.

Innovative

The report showed that strong and steady economic growth had been the principal reason for the reduced poverty in the region.

"What's going on now in East Asia is something quite new—a renaissance," Kharas said.

"The old Asia relied on the famous flying geese analogy that saw mature industries move to low-wage countries. The new Asia is more innovative and networked—it's characterized by a very competitive business environment that encourages new products and processes and a labor force able to absorb new ideas."

Growing inequality

But the report said that expanding economies had triggered growing income disparities in East Asia. By one measure, inequality was estimated to have grown by more than 22 percent between 1990 and 2002.

An aspect of inequality cited across all countries in the region was the widening rural-urban gap in incomes, consumption, poverty, education and health.

Average urban consumption levels were estimated at between 50 (in countries such as Indonesia) and 100 percent (in countries such as China, the Philippines and Thailand) higher than rural levels, while rural poverty rates were between 2 and 3 times bigger than the urban poverty rates.

Poverty remained an overwhelmingly rural phenomenon in East Asia, with the rural share of the poor ranging from about 75 percent in the Philippines and Indonesia to about 95 percent or more in China, Vietnam and Cambodia. These ratios have not changed much since 1990, the report noted.

Knowledge-based

The report argued that the rewards from knowledge-based economic growth could be concentrated geographically and socially, and that public policies were needed to spread the benefits more evenly.

For the growing number of middle-income countries, it called for improved management of small and mid-size cities.

The report noted that regional flows of goods, finance and technology were helping even smaller East Asian countries reap the benefits of economies of scale and that this regional integration must be encouraged.

But it pointed out that these measures would have to be supported by action at the domestic level to ease the stresses and strains that rapid economic growth leaves in its wake.

Vibrant cities

Foremost on the agenda is the need to build vibrant cities, cohesive societies and clean governments.

"Cities are at the core of a development strategy based on international integration, investment and innovation," Gill said.

"East Asia is witnessing the largest rural-to-urban shift of population in history. Two million new urban dwellers are expected in East Asian cities every month for the next 20 years. This will mean planning for and building dynamic, connected cities that are linked both domestically and to the outside world so that economic growth continues and social cohesion is strengthened," he said.

Across the region, cities are estimated to generate about three-quarters of annual output, and between one-half and two-thirds of exports. Often, much of this is concentrated in a single city: Bangkok has 40 percent of the country's GDP (gross domestic product), Manila has 30 percent, Ho Chi Minh City 20 percent, and Shanghai 11 percent.

The average city-dweller was estimated to consume almost twice as much as the average rural inhabitant.

Greater transparency

The report cited the need for improved social services and greater transparency and accountability in national and local governments.

As East Asian economies become wealthier and more complex, the report said citizens tended to demand better governance.

"Growth success translates into less tolerance for corrupt governments . . . It may also be the case that greater regional and global integration has led to increased pressure on governments to reduce corruption. In any case, governments in the region are likely to experience even stronger pressures to reduce corruption," the report said.

Antiabsenteeism lawmaker a no-show

From page A1

himself absent for a hearing on the issue yesterday.

Zamboanga Rep. Antonio Cerilles, a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition, was a no-show at the hearing of the House committee on ethics on his privilege speech deploring absenteeism and the lack of a quorum in the chamber.

"Mr. Chairman, you mean the author of the absenteeism investigation is absent?" asked Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, eliciting guffaws from those present.

The House leadership had been trying since last year to persuade the lawmakers to attend sessions, to no avail.

According to House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, the chamber had a quorum this year only during the debates on the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The committee chair, Bohol Rep. Roberto Cajes, could not explain why Cerilles was absent.

'Important' meeting

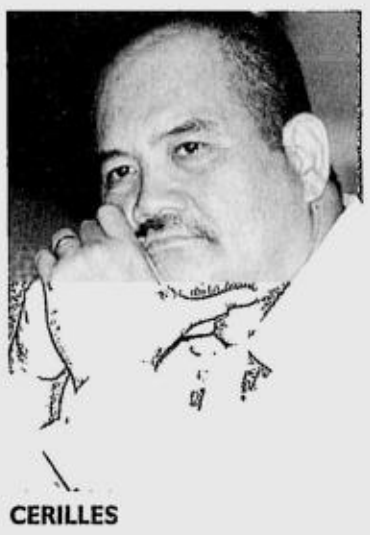
"Maybe he will inform us later," Cajes said. "It is possible he was not informed of the meeting, but I know that he was informed of the previous meeting. He was here then, although he arrived late."

The INQUIRER tried to call Cerilles, but his mobile phone had been turned off.

Cerilles' chief of staff, Lorraine Felipe, said his office knew about yesterday's hearing but he had to fly to Zamboanga on Friday for an "important" meeting.

He was expected back in Manila today, she said.

Cajes said the committee would have preferred to have Cerilles around "so that he could explain whatever measure he [wanted] to discuss" to address the matter.



CERILLES

"The issues raised [in the privilege speech] call for the remedial action to end or at least correct the perceived habitual absenteeism of the members of the House," Cajes said, adding:

"But in fairness to Congressman Cerilles, the two proposed bills [that triggered his privilege speech] were approved last May 31."

E-mailed complaint

Cerilles delivered his speech on May 29, days after receiving an e-mail from a private citizen complaining about absenteeism in the House.

He said in part: "It was on several occasions that [the writer] came to visit us in this Congress. And what did he observe? There was no quorum. We have our own so-called disciplinary committee—the ethics committee—and I think it is high time this Congress came up with a measure to compel members who do not think that attendance of the session is necessary.

"We are asking the Filipino people to have a unicameral system of government, but if the attendance of the members of Congress is reflective of what is supposed to be a unicameral parliamentary system, then we have a problem."

Cerilles said the members of the House were aware that their "primordial" obligation was "attendance at the session, attendance in the performance of the oversight functions in the committees and, of course, attendance to the needs of our constituents."

And yet, they "seem to ignore our obligation to the Filipino people," he said.

Cerilles said he wished that his colleagues would reflect on whether they should be called "honorable" because the term meant "a commitment to your people to attend the session."

He said the "humble letter" from "a gentleman" he did not know but who knew his e-mail address reflected the view of "millions of Filipinos who see the frustration of a body that usually does not have a quorum."

Perennial problem

Escudero said absenteeism was a "perennial problem" of the House leadership.

"But then," he said, "that gives the minority the advantage to be able to call the shots on the floor [with] their absence."

"If only the majority can impose their numbers upon us, then they will get their way each and every time as well. So on our part, even if all minority members attend the hearing, there would still be no quorum because we are only 34," Escudero said.

"But if even just half of the majority attends, they would always have a quorum," he said.

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DOH allays fears of dengue spread

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH yesterday allayed fears that dengue would further spread, saying the number of cases has been on a decline and still far below last year's figures.

Dr. Eric Tayag, chief of the DOH's National Epidemiology Center, said the current dengue figures would not surpass last year's level unless half of the country's 16 regions post an increase in the cases of the mosquito-borne disease.

"The dengue cases are expected to decline as the rainy season ends during the last quarter of the year," he added.

The latest dengue bulletin released by the NEC showed that some 15,635 dengue infections have been recorded as of Sept. 13 this year compared to 26,370 from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30 last year.

Tayag said this meant that dengue cases dropped by 40.7 percent in the first nine months of 2006 compared with the same period last year.

Jerome Aning

Sulpicio Lines told to pay up

CA orders P15-M pay for sinking victim

By Armand N. Nocum

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS AFFIRMED A LOWER COURT ruling ordering Sulpicio Lines to pay P14.9 million to the family of a geodetic engineer during the sinking of the M/V Doña Paz in December 1987.

The appellate court said the shipping company was liable for breach of contract for the death of Maximo Lorenzo Jr. who was among the more than 4,000 passengers who perished in the collision of the Doña Paz and the MT Vector, a small oil tanker hired by Caltex Phil., off the coast of Marinduque.

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Celia Librea-Leagogo, the CA found Sulpicio Lines, the owners of the Doña Paz, liable to pay the heirs of Lorenzo the amount of P13.8 million as compensatory damages for the loss of his earning capacity, P1 million as moral and exemplary damages, P100,000 as attorney's fees and P50,000 as death indemnity.

The CA decision modified a ruling of the Quezon City regional trial court which awarded P12.8 million to the Lorenzo family.

This is the first known compensation claim granted by a court in a case arising from the Doña Paz sea tragedy, the world's worst peacetime marine disaster.

Last January, the Court of Appeals absolved Caltex Phil. of any liability for the Doña Paz disaster against a suit filed against the oil company by Sulpicio Lines. The court said Caltex was not liable for the negligence of the captain of the Vector and was excluded from the responsibility of compensating the victims' heirs and of payment for lost cargo being sought by Sulpicio Lines.

Lorenzo's widow, Judge Manuela Lorenzo of the Manila regional trial court, filed a complaint against Sulpicio Lines on April 12, 1989, for damages arising from "breach of contract of carriage."

She claimed that on Dec. 19, 1987, her husband boarded the Doña Paz at the Tacloban port.

However, the Manila-bound vessel did not reach its destination when it collided with the Vector at about 10 p.m. on Dec. 20 at Dumali Point between Marinduque and Oriental Mindoro.

The appellate court said Sulpicio Lines was liable for breach of contract of carriage when it failed to exercise due diligence to safely bring Lorenzo to his destination.

The court explained that in actions for breach of contract, the existence of such contract and the fact that Sulpicio Lines failed to transport its passenger safely to his destination were the only matters that needed to be proven.

According to the CA, the contract of carriage between the victim and Sulpicio Lines was established when the shipping company admitted in its certification dated Feb. 1, 1988, that Lorenzo boarded the vessel in Tacloban City and died when the ship sank on December 20, 1987.

The rule is that the relation of carrier and passenger continues until the passenger has been landed at the port of destination and has left the vessel owner's dock or premises, the CA said.

It said that there was a breach of the contract of carriage when the common carrier, Sulpicio Lines, failed to carry the passenger, Lorenzo, safely to his destination.

It said it was incumbent on Sulpicio Lines to rebut this presumption by proving that it exercised extraordinary diligence in transporting Lorenzo to his destination.

The court said that it found that Sulpicio Lines had failed to rebut this presumption and failed to prove that it observed extraordinary diligence as a common carrier, as required by law.

A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback:
inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207
(Globe) or 283 (Smart)

New accident spurs closure of amusement park

HOMELESS
Nine-year-old Liezel Gabrinaw seems to be wondering where she and her family can seek shelter after their house in Baseco Compound, Tondo, Manila was demolished yesterday by men from the city government's office. REM ZAMORA

Maintenance system reviewed

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE ACCIDENTAL death of a 13-year-old girl who fell from one of its rides, the Star City amusement park in Pasay City was closed to the public yesterday after another incident involving another ride occurred on Monday.

Edwin Javaluyas, head of the City Engineer's Office, said one of the cars at the Kiddie Bumper Ride—among the park's more popular attractions—emitted sparks and smoke, causing the parents of a 3-year-old girl to panic. The girl, however, was unhurt.

Following the incident, Pasay City acting Mayor Allan Panaligan ordered the temporary closure of Star City to allow Javaluyas to conduct an investigation of the incident and an inspection of the park facilities.

"It is a minor incident that still requires action from the local government and the park management," Panaligan told the INQUIRER yesterday. He added that the reopening of the park would depend on the findings of the City Engineer's Office.

Javaluyas, meanwhile, said the sparks came from one of the wires in the motor of the bump car. What bothered the parents of the 3-year-old girl, however, was not the incident but the way the ride attendants responded to the situation, Javaluyas said.

Instead of removing the girl from the bump car, the attendants allegedly ignored the commotion, he said. "The parents also claimed that they waited at the park from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. until they were given attention," he added.

The city government last week shut down the park's Wild River ride after 13-year-old Rachel Gem Suba fell to her death on Sept. 10.

Star City lawyer, Rodinil Bugay, meanwhile, said park officials agreed to shut down the amusement center to carry out "further preventive maintenance."

"Star City has been in the amusement business for the last 10 years and will do everything to keep the park safe for its patrons," Bugay said in a statement yesterday.

Dengue under control in Rizal – health officer

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE STILL CLOSELY monitoring a few areas in the mountainous province of Rizal where the number of dengue cases has continued to shoot up.

Rizal Provincial Health officer Iluminado Victoria, however, told the INQUIRER that the spread of the disease in most towns in the province is under control. "The spread of dengue fever is showing a downward trend. But there is still no letup in our cleanliness and information campaigns," Victoria said.

A total of 190 new dengue cases were reported in the province from Sept. 12 up to yesterday morning, according to provincial health dengue and malaria coordinator Alberto Piñon.

No deaths, however, were reported last week. Forty-one residents have died of the disease since the start of the year. "We are still closely monitoring Cainta town and Antipolo City," Piñon said.

A total of 131 new dengue cases were reported in Antipolo City in the last seven days, bringing the total number of cases in the area to 279 since January this year. Nine cases resulted in the patient's death. The figure, however, was still lower compared to last year. There were about 500 dengue cases in the city last year, according to the city public information office.

Twenty-two new dengue cases were also reported in Cainta in the last seven days, bringing the total number of cases in the area to 70. In San Mateo, there were 25 new cases, for a total of 121 cases so far this year.

Binay hits 'disinformation' drive in aide's murder

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AMID REPORTS THAT HIS FRIEND was slain over money problems, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay reiterated yesterday that his trusted security officer, Pablo Glean, was killed because of politics.

"There is no other motive but politics. If the police really want to get to the bottom of this, then they should focus on Oplan Phoenix and Task Force Spider, which Glean had uncovered three weeks before he was killed," Binay said in a statement.

The mayor denied reports that Glean's death was related to an alleged dispute over money in the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI). The security official, who also heads Makati's Business Permits and Licenses office, was a member of the organization.

Glean was gunned down, weeks after he reportedly informed Binay that two groups—Oplan Phoenix and Task Force Spider—were scheduled to conduct "special operations" against opposition leaders.

"The killing was the handiwork of professionals, and we are certain that Glean's killing was a major part of these plans," the mayor added.

Binay also criticized reports linking his security chief to the alleged foiled coup plot last February.

'Disinformation'

He said the "disinformation" was "muddling the investigation."

"There were hundreds of military men and civilians who were investigated in the last few months. Now, after his killing, Lito Glean's name surfaces. Clearly, this is disinformation and it is very unfair because Mr. Glean cannot defend himself," Binay added.

The mayor also claimed that Glean had long been targeted by hit men and the bullets that killed his driver, Edilmar Pancipane, may have been meant for him.

Three men gunned down Pancipane, a former barangay official and known ally of Binay, in Barangay Tejeros, Makati City last March.

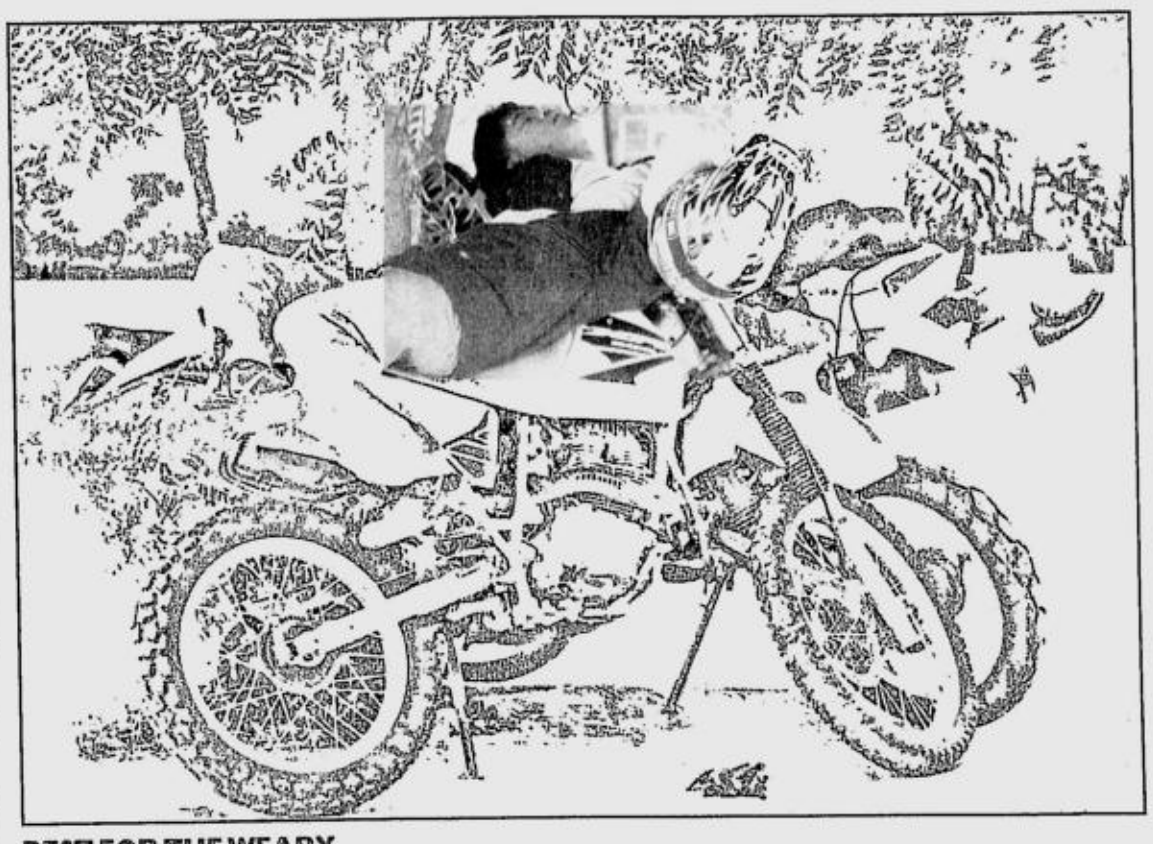
Binay had earlier said one of the four gunmen in Glean's slay closely resembled one of the three unidentified assailants in Pancipane's yet unsolved shooting, based on a comparison of artist's sketches of gunmen in the two cases.

"It bolsters the angle that Glean has long been a target. After he told the mayor about the two groups, he received more death threats through phone calls and text messages," said Joey Salgado, Makati Information and Community Relations chief.

Glean was killed last Saturday by four armed men as he was having coffee with friends at a convenience store on 32nd Avenue in Fort Bonifacio's commercial center, Global City.

A security guard, Benhur Bernados, also died in the incident.

Socrates Galpo, Albert Gigante and Felix Santiago—Glean's fellow bikers from the Bagwis Riding Club—were wounded after they were hit by bullets.



REST FOR THE WEARY
Two men take a nap on top of their motorcycles parked underneath a tree at the parking lot of the Senate building in Pasay City.
ROGER MARGALLO

ISM stakeholders elect interim board

By Daxim L. Lucas

STAKEHOLDERS OF STRIFE-torn International School Manila (ISM) elected a new board of trustees Monday night, carrying out a "corporate coup" that deposed the old set of school officials who were elected last May.

A statement posted on the website run by the stakeholders after the elections declared that the parents and the school community "have spoken."

"The message, delivered loud and clear, is simple: We choose better governance," the statement said. "By making the effort to attend the meeting either in person or by proxy, we demonstrated that the education of our children remains first and foremost in our priorities."

The leadership crisis at the 86-year-old former American school in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, began earlier this month after the old board fired ISM superintendent David Toze, drawing protests from parents and school staffers.

Parent Dina Paterno told the INQUIRER that 961 votes were cast on Monday, representing 619 parent-stakeholders who were physically present to cast their votes; another 342 voted through "special proxies."

The 961 voters represented 79.8 percent of the total voting population.

Elected members of the interim board were Randy Johnson, chair of Chevron Phil.; Paul W. Jones, deputy chief of mission of the US Embassy; Swedish Ambassador Annika Markovic; Juan Miranda, director general for Central and West Asia Regional Development of the Asian Development Bank; Citibank country officer Sanjiv Vohra; Ernest Cu, president of SPI Technologies Inc.; Fredrick M. Santos, president of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines; Margarita Delgado, president of Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation; Byoung Hyun Suh, director of the United Korean Community Association and Aurelio Montinola III, Bank of the Philippine Islands president.

Supporters of the ousted board members, meanwhile, criticized the election of an interim board, saying the stakeholders were guilty of the same behavior of the old board of which they they had been critical.

"These insiders accused the previous board of manipulating the proxy system in garnering the votes to get their candidates elected," an e-mailed statement from the rival camp said.

"They are now also manipulating the fear and lack of information of the parents by abusing the proxy system themselves," it added, referring to former board members who allegedly won their posts by gathering enough proxy votes.

DID YOU KNOW

LOCATED along Pasig River, a stone's throw away from Nagtahan Bridge, is a house where Apolinario Mabini, the "Brains of the Revolution," once lived. The house, which has been turned into a shrine, is made of *nipa* and bamboo and once belonged to his brothers-in-law. Mabini started living there in 1888, the year he entered law school, and stayed in the house for most of his adult life.

Inside the house are some of the hero's possessions: A bench, his transcription of Francisco Baltazar's "Florante at Laura" and a wooden wreath from Paete, Laguna.

The house was originally located across the Pasig River but was moved in 1963 to give way for the expansion of the bridge.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

METROBRIEFS

Tips for victims

GIVE them what they want but try to pick out a distinctive mark that could help authorities catch them later on. This was the advice of a police intelligence officer after a taxi driver was killed when he tried to fight off robbers before dawn in Caloocan City yesterday. Ruben Cadaingan, 55, died after he was stabbed several times by armed men who took his earnings of P1,900. "Spare yourself from harm, do not try to fight the suspects especially when they are armed. Give them what they want but remember a distinguishing mark which is helpful in pursuing them," said Chief Insp. Cresencio Galvez Galvez, head of the Caloocan City Intelligence Unit. "If you immediately report an incident to the police, the chances of arresting the suspects are bigger," he added.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Monthly allocation

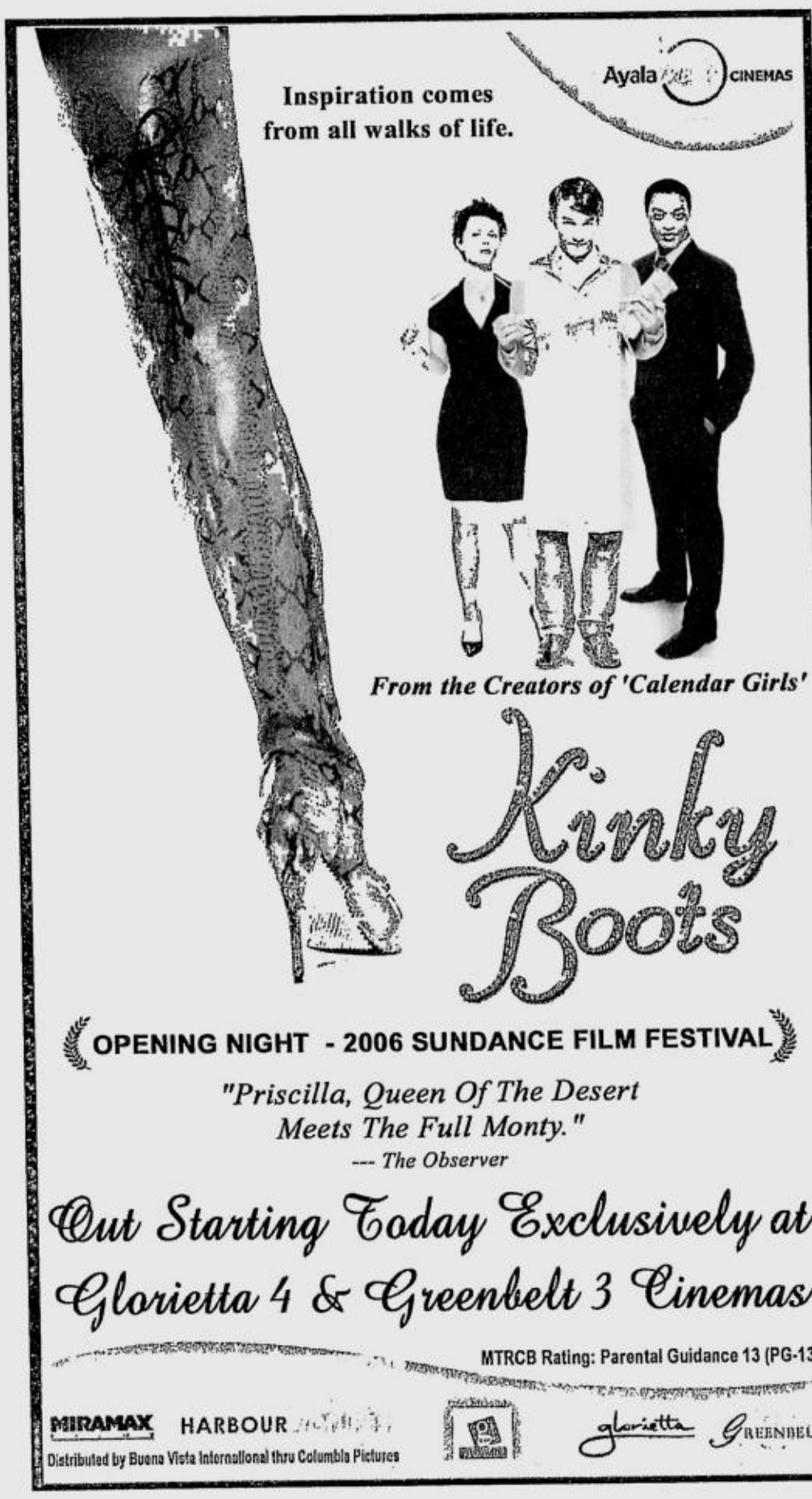
HIS POLICE powers already restored, Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio yesterday promised to give a monthly budget to his local police to fund antidrugs and anticriminality operations. He did not specify any amount, but Eusebio told the INQUIRER the city government would provide the local police "a monthly budget to sustain their operations starting this month." Pasig City police chief Senior Supt. Francisco Uyami Jr. said the fund would be spent on operation-related expenses like "food for our operatives during raids" and even transportation expenses for policemen going to the crime laboratory to submit evidence or going to the courts to file cases.

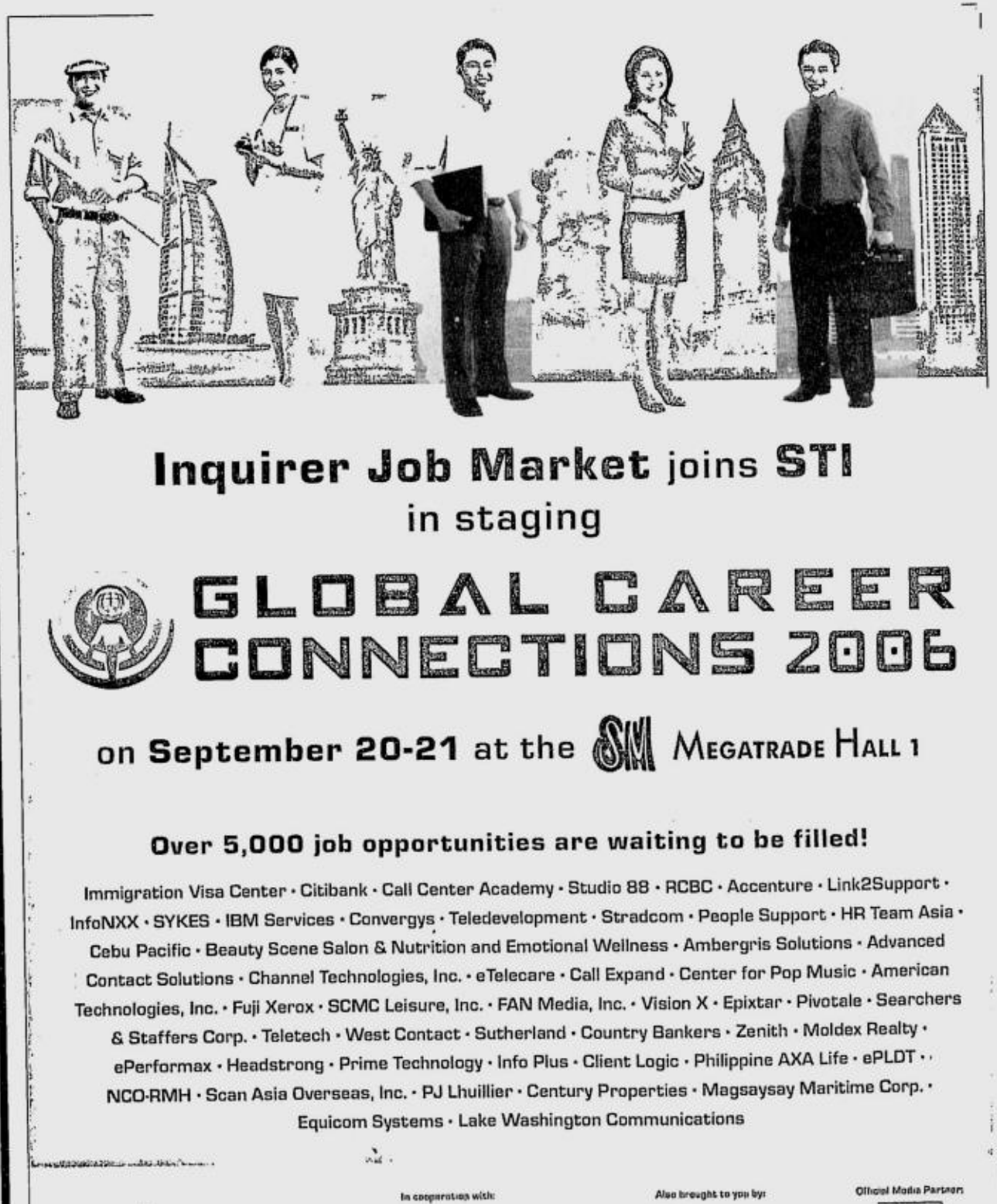
Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Back to basics

THE CHIEF of the Manila Police District (MPD) has ordered the assignment of the city's 3,000 policemen to three shifts and their deployment to crime-prone areas beginning this week. "We are implementing back to basics policies in the district in our continuing fight against crime." MPD acting director Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa said in an interview. Abarzosa said he has instructed the MPD's station commanders to designate each of their men to a particular street in a crime-prone area or a "line beat."

Margaux C. Ortiz





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WorldBriefs

62 killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—At least 62 people were killed around Iraq on Monday, 21 of them in a suicide attack on people waiting for their butane gas ration cards in the northern city of Tall Afar. A suicide bomber, wearing an explosive belt, approached a crowd waiting for the ration cards in downtown Tall Afar, and exploded himself, a police official said. Two policemen were among the dead and 17 were wounded. The day's other big attack came in Ramadi, where a bomber struck in the Al-Hurriyah police station in the southwest of the Sunni Arab insurgent stronghold, killing 13 people, a police officer said. In other attacks, 28 people were killed, including four members of a Shiite family shot dead by gunmen as they attempted to flee their homes north of Baghdad. *AFP*

Slay try in Somalia

BAIDOA, Somalia—The president of Somalia's weak interim government survived an assassination bid on Monday when assailants blew up a car outside parliament and fought security forces, killing 11 people. President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed was unhurt in the attack around midday in Baidoa, the temporary seat of the transitional administration, amid heightened tension between the government and Somalia's powerful Islamist movement. But at least 11 people—five members of Yusuf's entourage, including his younger brother, Abdulsalam, and six presumed attackers—were killed, and at least 18, including nine presidential guards, were wounded, officials said. *AFP*

Afghan blasts kill 18

KANDAHAR—Three powerful suicide blasts struck Afghanistan Monday, killing 18 people including four Canadian soldiers handing gifts to children. In the first blast a man on a bicycle blew himself up in a crowd of children clamoring for pens and books from Canadian troops with the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) near the southern city of Kandahar. The explosion struck an area west of Kandahar where Isaf announced Sunday it had succeeded in driving out Taliban entrenched fighters, about 500 of whom it said earlier were killed in a two-week operation. *AFP*

Saddam trial resumes

BAGHDAD—The genocide trial of ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein resumed on Tuesday with further harrowing witness testimony about the military campaign that killed and displaced hundreds of thousands of Kurds in the 1980s. "The fighting started in the village of Qaram Pasha and lasted for three days," Rauf Faraj Abdallah, a middle-aged Kurd in traditional dress, told the court. "Out of fear, we fled towards the mountains, as our village was bombed with chemical weapons." Saddam and six of his former associates are on trial for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. *AFP*

Castro in uniform, walking, eating well, say friends

HAVANA—CONVALESCING CUBAN leader Fidel Castro is trying on his uniform, taking short walks in his hospital room to loosen up his numb limbs and has a healthy appetite, visiting friends said on Monday.

"I am just returning from seeing him in uniform... it really struck me, when I saw him standing in his uniform I stopped dead in my tracks and said: 'Fidel, what's this?,'" Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said in a interview aired on Cuban state television on Monday, but taped on the weekend.

Chavez was one of a number of dignitaries and friends who met with Castro during a nonaligned movement summit last week.

He said Castro had regained his "thundering voice" and people should prepare for him coming back into public soon.

Castro has not appeared in public since emergency surgery to stop intestinal bleeding in late July forced him to hand over power temporarily to his brother and designated heir Raul Castro for the first time since their 1959 revolution.

"We walked about the room," Argentine lawmaker and journalist Miguel Bonasso said in an article published by Cuba's ruling Communist Party newspaper Granma.

"I have to get rid of the numbness," he said to Bonasso.

Photographs showed the octogenarian Castro sitting in a rocking chair in pajamas and dressing gown, with his shoes on.

Castro, a self-declared news junkie, is following current affairs closely and has an aide reading wire dispatches to him, Bonasso said.

The leftist firebrand said he was feeling "terribly hungry" lately. "I eat everything," he said, according to Bonasso. *Reuters*

Annan warns Iraq on brink of civil war

UNITED NATIONS—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan warned on Monday that urgent action is needed by the entire international community to drag Iraq back from the brink of all-out civil war.

ANNAN REUTERS

Speaking as Iraqi leaders defended their policies to potential aid donors at the UN General Assembly, Annan joined their appeal for a quick and massive international effort to strengthen the embattled government in Baghdad and "bring Iraq back from the brink."

"If current patterns of alienation and violence persist much longer, there is a grave danger that the Iraqi state will break down, possibly in the midst of full-scale civil war," Annan said.

Following Annan's address, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani gave an impassioned defense of his government's strategy for combating terrorism and sectarian violence, disbanding rival militias and reforming government security services.

He also pledged to create a credible national unity government and institute wide-ranging economic reforms including guarantees for foreign investors, a sound national oil law and transparency on how money is distributed and spent, according to a senior US official who attended the closed-door talks.

The meeting of foreign ministers and other leaders on the so-called Iraq Compact came as another 62 Iraqis were reported killed in suicide bombings or ethnic carnage between the country's majority Shia and minority Sunni Muslim communities.

Annan said Iraq, which was invaded by a US-led force that toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein in 2003, had made "important progress" in the past two years with two national elections, a constitutional referendum and a constitutional process.

But he said much more is needed to be done both by Iraq's leaders and the international community.

Monday's meeting was the biggest yet in a US-backed effort to create a new "Iraq Compact"—an agreement between the government and international donors that would commit Baghdad to political and economic reforms in return for a major influx of foreign investment and aide.

The gathering was attended by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, officials from all Iraq's neighbors and a wide array of European governments, according to the senior State Department official.

Potential donors at the meeting were "very, very supportive and encouraging" following Talabani's presentation, the official said, noting that Iran and Syria, key US rivals in the region, were the only "discordant" voices.

"What (the Iraqis) heard was that everyone realizes they have a stake, both in the region and outside, in the future of Iraq, in a stable, secure, peaceful Iraq," he said.

The goal of the Iraq Compact is to encourage donors to provide significant new aid to the country in the form of investment, grants, loans and debt forgiveness or rescheduling. *AFP*

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The Local Government Unit of General Santos City, through the CY 2006 Trust Fund Budget intends to apply the sum of Two Million Seven Hundred Thousand Pesos (P2,700,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Purchase of 1 unit Brand New Farm Tractor. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Purchase of 1 unit Brand New Farm Tractor. Delivery of the GOODS is required by 45 calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsive of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the **Local Government Unit of General Santos City** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **P1,000.00** to the City Treasurer's Office. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested on October 3, 2006, 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of October 17, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to One Percent (1%) of ABC or Bank Guarantee equivalent to One and a half Percent (1 ½%) of ABC or Surety Bond equivalent to Two and a half Percent (2 ½%) of ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of October 17, 2006 at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Bids and Awards Committee
Gina Y. Pigar
2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-0553, (083) 302-7210
Fax: (083) 301-0553
Website address: www.gensantos.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NAEL JOSEPH D. CRUSPERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI—Sept 20 & 28, 2006)

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- Business World Online February 18, 2006

The Philippines, as a destination for offshore investments, never looked better as it does now. No longer capitalizing on human resources alone, the country has now all the facilities to support an outsourcing industry—April B. Rosales, Computer World Magazine Reporter, March 30, 2006

"After establishing a strong niche in the call center industry the Philippines is now targeting high-value data outsourcing contracts in the field of animation, software development, legal and medical transcription, architectural and financials. A strategy is needed to keep the country's position as a preferred global site for offshore services."

But what would be the strategy to cash in this multi-billion dollar business? Foreign and Local Speakers, together with key leaders of the industry and SME participants to this event will discuss and highlight the revenue opportunities in the ICT businesses; the increase in growth rate for non--ICT companies using this technology and the important inputs to be generated for the proposed masterplan for the industry by the government.

In a joint forecast by the Business Process Association of the Philippines (BPAP), Board of Investments (BOI) and the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) the Philippine outsourcing industry will create 103,000 new jobs in 2006 generating 3.7 billion US dollars in revenues this year.

The SEVENTH of the series, Business Opportunities 2007 provides a venue for SMEs in the industry to create and develop strong and reliable partnership with the major players in the IT industry. These partnerships can be developed and created in various forms such as strategic alliances, consortia, joint venture agreement or simple memorandum of understanding among two or more parties to increase their capabilities in terms of capital funding, technology application, talent scouting, risk taking and market access.

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- Cooperatives
- Financial Institutions
- IT Enabled Businesses
- Investors
- Concerned government institutions
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

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PETEF - Philippines Electronics and Telecommunications Federation
ITFP - Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines

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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

DAY 1

Time	Activity	Speaker
1:00 - 9:00	Registration	
9:00 - 10:00	Parade of Colors	
	Invocation & National Anthem; Welcome Remarks	Dr. Mina T. Gabor, President, Philippine Small and Medium Business Development Foundation
	DTI's commitment to Philippine ICT for SMEs; Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Sec. Peter B. Favila, Secretary, Department of Trade & Industry; Ms. Dittas Formoso, President, Information Technology Association of the Philippines
	Keynote Speech	Philip Bond, President, Information Technology Association of America, USA
	COFFEE BREAK - RAFFLE DRAW OF PRIZES	
10:15 - 11:45	Sustaining the Momentum Gained in a Leading Edge Industry Incentivizing Start Ups	IT and Telecommunications CEOs Forum***
	Moderator: Maureen Santiago, EVP & CEO, Capwire Telecommunications, Inc	
11:45 - 12:00	Is Asean the Door for Philippines To Develop Worldwide Contact	Dr. Philip Dews, UK, Asean Regional Business Forum Malaysia
12:00 - 12:30	ICT Roadmap that will impact SME growth	Ramon P. Sales, Chairman, Commission on Information and Communications Technology
12:30 - 1:30	Luncheon Keynote Speaker	Manuel Rosales, USA, Deputy Director for International Affairs, Small Business Administration
1:30 - 2:30	Successes/ Challenges in Implementing Non-Traditional Management Methods	Joey Gurango, Founder/CEO, Gurango Software; Francisco "Paco" Sandejas, Ph.D., Managing Partner, Narra Venture Capital; Artemio "June" Pama, Jr., Country Manager, Fred Phils.
	Moderator: Ibarra C. Gutierrez, Editor-in-Chief, Computerworld Philippines	
2:30 - 3:30	Success in Utilizing ICT in New Businesses	Miguel Garcia, President & Managing Director, Solor Interactive; Edgardo B. Herbosa, Founder, B2Bpricenow.com; Honorable Feliciano Belmonte, Jr., Mayor, Quezon City
3:30 - 4:00	COFFEE BREAK - RAFFLE DRAW OF PRIZES	
4:00 - 4:30	Legal Process Implications in Developing Business Opportunities	Atty. Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, Managing Partner, Chato-Vinzon Law Office
4:30 - 5:00	Value of Respecting Intellectual Property to Business Growth	Atty. Eduardo C. Escaño, Center for Intellectual Property Education
5:00 - 5:30	Creating a Competitive Regulatory Environment to Induce ICT Growth	Ronald O. Solis, Commissioner, National Telecommunications Commission
5:30 ONWARDS	Bulong Pulungan sa BizOps 2007 - "Enabling the Businessmen in the Countryside to Share Business in ICT"***	
	Moderator: Julie Yap Daza and Deedee Sytangco	

DAY 2

Time	Activity	Speaker
8:00 - 9:00	Registration	
9:00 - 10:00	Forward ICT Philippines: Linking up of Academe, Private Sector, Government and the International Market; Special Message; Private Sector Response	Dr. Estrella F. Alabastro, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology; Mitchell L. Locsin, Executive Director, Business Processing Association of the Phils
10:00 - 11:00	Technology Solutions for SME's (Panel Discussion)	Ricardo Banaag, Country Manager, Intel Microelectronics Phils.; Willo S. Cruz, Managing Director, HP Phils.; Cynthia Mamon, President & Managing Director, Sun Microsystems Philippines Inc
	Moderator: Reginald Yu, Partner, KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co	
11:00 - 12:00	Putting Digital Content Center Stage: Philippines, a Reliable Partner (Panel Discussion)	Luis Paolo M. Pineda, Managing Director, ABS-CBN Interactive; Jose Benjamin Collayco, COO, Level-Up Inc; Jaime Enrique Y. Gonzales, President/Managing Director, IPVG; Neil Dagondon, President, Apex Entertainment; Dennis Mendiola, CEO, Chikka Asia, Inc
	Moderator: David Fernando, Managing Director, Technology Support Services, Inc	
12:00 - 2:00	BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS; Dan Salcedo - Guest of Honor and Speaker, Founder, www.peoplelink.org/www.celgen.com USA	(Separate Program)
2:00 - 3:30	Revenue Opportunities in the ICT Enabled Businesses	Danilo Sebastian Reyes, Country Manager, Cienlogic; James M. Donovan, President & CEO, ADEC Solutions Inc; Marie Grace Dimaranan, President, Animation Council of the Phils. Inc; Myla Rose M. Reyes, President, Medical Transcription Industry Association of the Philippines; Rita Cruz, Senior Executive, Accenture
	Moderator: Christine Maleano, PR Manager, TeleTech	
3:30 - 3:45	COFFEE BREAK - RAFFLE DRAW OF PRIZES	
3:45 - 6:00	Country ICT Experiences in Encouraging SME Business	Speakers from UK, Canada, Australia, India, Japan***
	Moderator: Dr. Philip Dews, UK, Asean Regional Business Forum Malaysia	
6:00 ONWARDS	Business Networking/Employment Opportunities & Product Presentation	

***Speakers for confirmation, names to appear in the next ads

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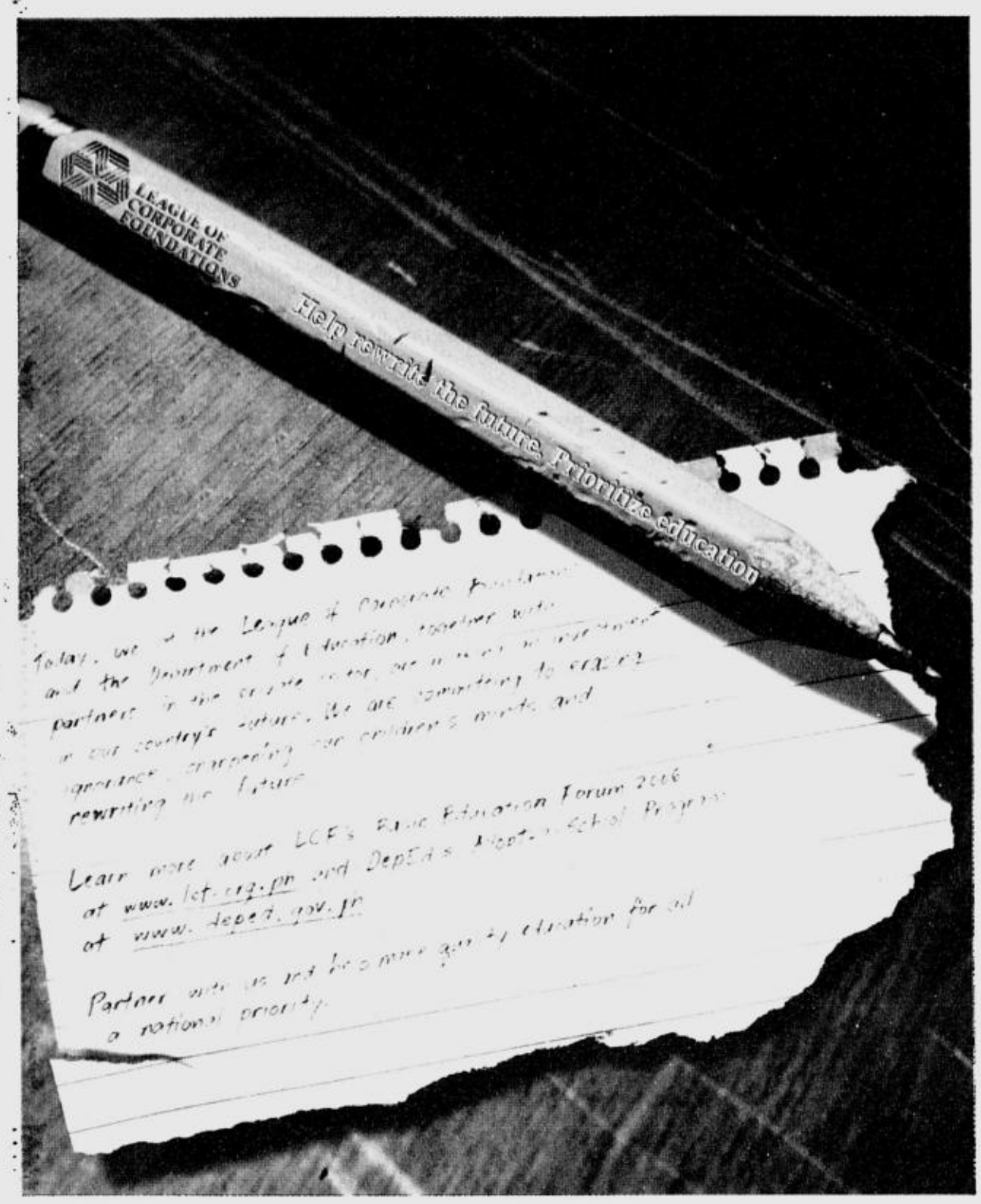

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APPEASING MUSLIMS

Vatican launches diplomatic blitz

ROME—THE VATICAN LAUNCHED A DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE in Muslim countries on Monday to clarify Pope Benedict XVI's position on Islam following outrage over his remarks linking the religion with violence.

As the Holy See's move to appease Muslim anger got underway, the Pope consulted his top diplomatic adviser, Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, in an audience at his summer palace outside Rome.

The 79-year-old head of the Roman Catholic Church also held talks with bishops from predominantly Muslim Chad, his first meeting with clergy from a largely Muslim country since a row erupted last week over his remarks linking Islam with violence.

The Vatican said the long-scheduled meeting with the six African bishops was part of their customary five-yearly visit to Rome.

Bertone earlier told the Italian daily Corriere della Sera in an interview that envoys from the Holy See had been asked to explain the full meaning of Benedict's speech to political and religious authorities in Muslim countries.

He said Vatican ambassadors, or papal nuncios, would highlight passages of the lengthy speech which would help to clarify its true meaning but which had been ignored in the furor.

In another move aimed at calming tensions, senior Vatican Cardinal Paul Poupard will meet the Imam of Rome's mosque, Sami Salem, at a ceremony on Tuesday hosted by the city's mayor, Walter Veltroni.

Salem on Monday told the Ansa news agency: "With the Pope's words, we have stepped back by several years." But he added that he was endeavoring to maintain calm in the Muslim community and to "work for dialogue, despite the difficulties." Meanwhile, Poupard, head of the Vatican council for Interfaith dialogue, called last week on "Muslim friends of good will" to read the Pope's speech in its entirety before passing judgement.

On Monday evening the Vatican's newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, encouraged them also to pay careful attention to the Pope's speech on Sunday in which he said he was "deeply sorry" for the offence his words had caused: it published the full text of Sunday's statement in Arabic.

But Vatican appeasement risked being drowned out by protests which reverberated around the Muslim world, with Al-Qaeda in Iraq declaring a holy war in reaction to the remarks as protestors burned an effigy of the Pope.

Italy's bishops jumped to Benedict's defense as they opened their autumn meeting. Their leader Cardinal Camillo Ruini said it was "surprising and painful" that his speech in Germany was "misunderstood to the point of being interpreted as an offence against Islam." Ruini said the Pope's speech had been twisted into a pretext for "intimidatory acts and despicable threats," to the extent of being a possible motive for the murder of an Italian nun, Sister Leonella Sgorbati, in Somalia on Sunday.

The scale and intensity of the Muslim reaction had cast doubts on the Pope's next scheduled foreign trip in November to Muslim-majority Turkey.

Bertone, who took office as the Vatican's No. 2 official only last week, said the first meeting of the Turkish bishops' conference to organize the visit would take place on Tuesday.

"Up to now, there has been no reason for it not to go ahead," he said of the visit.

Bertone said the Pope's words in Germany had been "heavily manipulated" and their true meaning distorted. *AFP*

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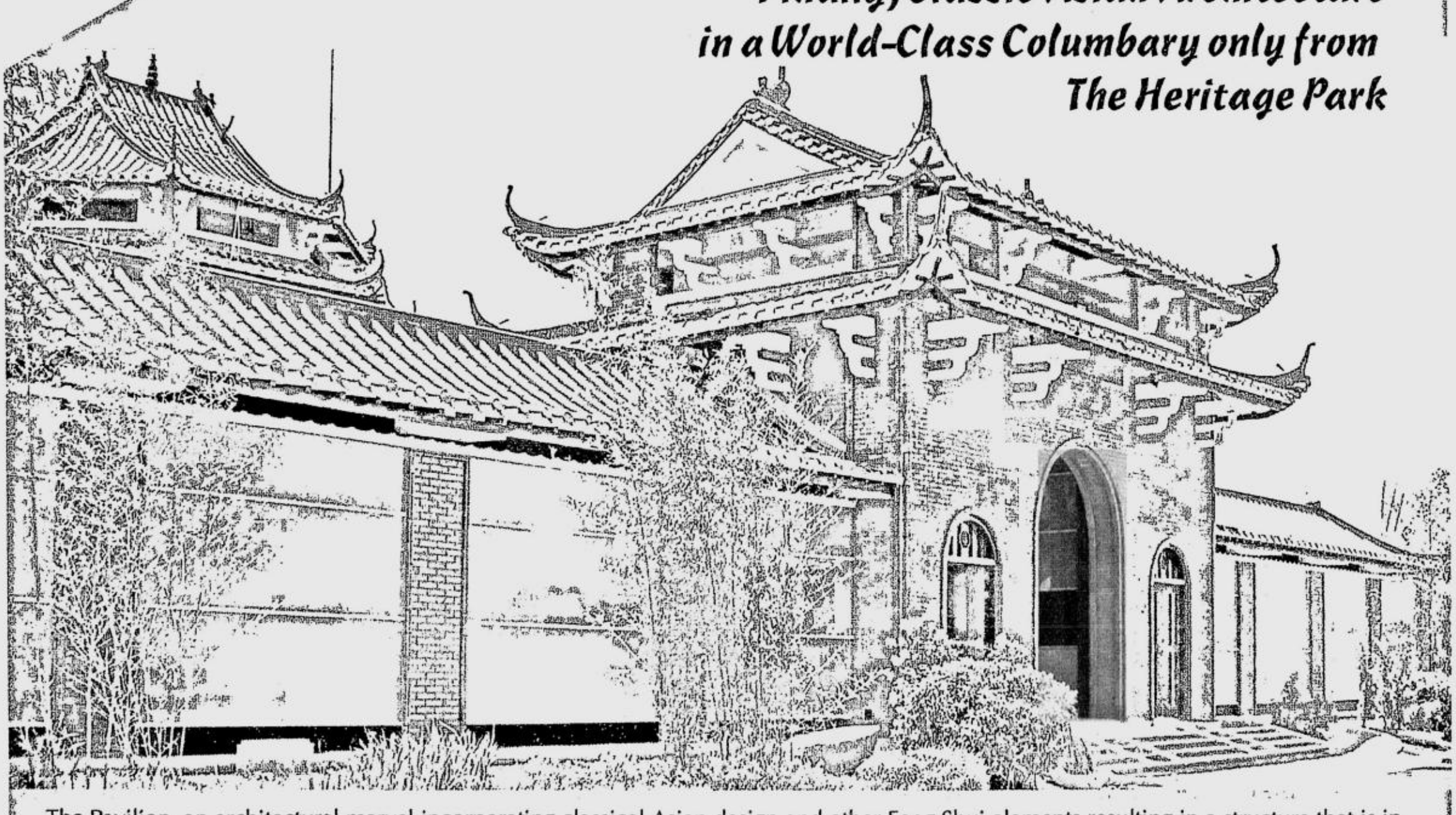

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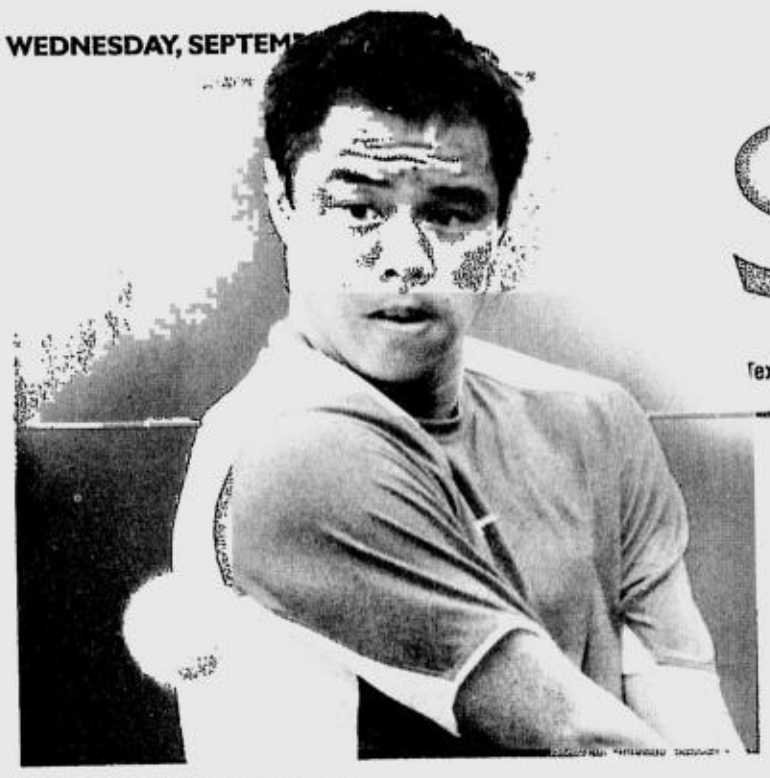

CECIL Mamiit: Back in top form

Mamiit ends ATP slump

SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES hero Cecil Mamiit is out of a slump.

The unseeded Mamiit took New Orleans by storm when he won the ATP Challengers $50,000 tournament recently, capping his romp with a 6-3, 7-6 upset of No. 1 seed Amer Delic of the United States 6-3, 7-6 (1) in the singles finals.

So overpowering was Mamiit, the SEAG singles gold medalist, that the Fil-American won his first ATP event of 2006 without losing a set.

Mamiit shocked No. 3 seed Michael Russel in the first round, Swiss Davis Cupper Ivo Heuberger in the second round, Dutch Fred Hemmes in the quarterfinals and American Eric Nunez in the semis before bundling out Delic—all in straight sets—to pocket the $7,200 (about P360,000) first prize and 50 ATP entry points.

Mamiit combined with American Sam Warburg to score a 7-6, 6-1 win over Chris Drake and David Martin of the US in the doubles final.

Mamiit, whose career victims include Andre Agassi and Michael Chang, will be leading the 2006 Asian Games campaign in Doha in December.

Mamiit moves up 41 positions to No. 181 in the ATP rankings with the win. *Jong Arcano*

Lions seek first title in 28 years

THE DROUGHT, WHICH HAS left the Red Lions of San Beda thirsting for 28 years, may finally end today.

Coming off a win in Game 1, San Beda will be going after Philippine Christian University—and the NCAA men's basketball crown—today at the Araneta Coliseum.

San Beda coach Koy Banal, however, refused to be confident, choosing instead to put into context his team's place in the best-of-three series.

"We are just one game ahead in this title series," said Banal after that 71-57 triumph. "We are all looking at all possible adjustments PCU will do on Game 2."

As far as PCU coach Joel Dualan is concerned, though, there may just be no adjustments needed.

"What we lacked was the intensity," Dualan told the INQUIRER. "That's what we are working on today (in practice), we need to play at a high level especially in the third quarter."

The Dolphins practiced from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. yesterday, reported Dualan, without much adjustment in their run-and-gun style but working extra hard to psyche themselves up.

"This is only a best-of-three series, we can't do anything about it but win tomorrow and try not to commit the

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*The Car Awards Group, Inc. and the Automobile Association Philippines are the official observers of the Petron Xtra Mile Challenge. Team Zayco Hermanos used a 1300 automatic transmission Honda [illegible]

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Peping in for a shock?

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

MANY THOUGHTS were running through my mind as I stood inside the 6th floor PLDT Boardroom to witness what could either be Philippine basketball history in the making or just another day in the calendar.

Sunday, Sept. 17, the articles of incorporation and constitution and by-laws of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas were to be signed by the three-man panel composed of group chair Manny V. Pangilinan, BAP president Joey Lina, Pilipinas Basketball head Bernie Atienza and SBP directors Ricky Vargas and Michel Lhuillier.

The SBP, a merger of the BAP and Pilipinas Basketball, is envisioned to unify Philippine basketball and to get the Fiba ban on the Philippines lifted.

I was very, very impressed. Everything was done so professionally and in such a short time. I kept my fingers crossed that this time, the cookie would not crumble.

MVP had generously shouldered the seed money of Pl million that was supposed to come from the different groups.

* * *

The incorporators were upbeat.

The BAP through Joey Lina and Pilipinas Basketball, through Bernie Atienza, each nominated 12 representatives from five different sectors: geographical, professional, school-based, commercial and women and youth. Chair MVP completes the 25-man Board of Trustees from which will be chosen the chair, the vice chair and the president.

The three other officers—the executive director, secretary and treasurer, may be selected from within the board or outside.

A clause specifically said that "the secretary shall be a resident and citizen of the Philippines."

* * *

You might ask, why am I writing all these things when you may already have heard or read about some of them.

This is because I continue to get many calls and inquiries about the SBP. I believe most people are still unclear about the new setup.

"So when is the election of officers scheduled?" I asked Joey who had huge bags under his eyes and looked very haggard that day.

I understand he had been severely stressed because the articles of incorporation were prematurely leaked to the press by one of the people from the tiny circle.

Joey said the group still had to set a schedule for the election.

Ricky Vargas, appointed interim SBP treasurer, informed us that the national congress would convene this weekend either in Manila or Cebu where Michel Lhuillier had offered to host the big affair. More than a hundred delegates from all over the Philippines are expected to attend.

* * *

At the Manila Hotel press conference the following day, colleague Tito Talao asked Ricky V if they already had a short list of the candidates for the various executive positions.

Ricky said they had neither a long nor short list.

"But perhaps you can give us some names," Ricky told the group of scribes seated on the table, where he and MVP sat awhile to chat.

You can imagine the shoot-out in that table following that statement made by Ricky. Shoot-out in the sense that many names were mentioned—only to be shot down.

Then one of the scribes asked if POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco had already been provided a list of the members of the board of trustees. He suggested that a doctor be on hand when Peping gets the list because he might have a heart attack.

Johnny A moves from Coke to Gin

By June Navarro

BARANGAY GINEBRA HAS BECOME EVEN more daunting on paper.

Flaunting a frontline unmatched in terms of depth, the Kings completed the missing piece in their backcourt by snatching Johnny Abarrientos from the unrestricted free-agent list yesterday.

The restriction for the Kings to acquire the prized playmaker was lifted before sunset after no other team outside of the San Miguel Corp.-owned ballclubs dangled an offer to secure the rights on the 1996 PBA MVP.

Under league rules, teams interested on Abarrientos have five working days which started Wednesday last week to negotiate with the veteran point guard. The grace period lapsed yesterday afternoon.

"If there are no takers, we'll definitely take him (Abarrrientos) in," said Barangay Ginebra coach Jong Uichico.

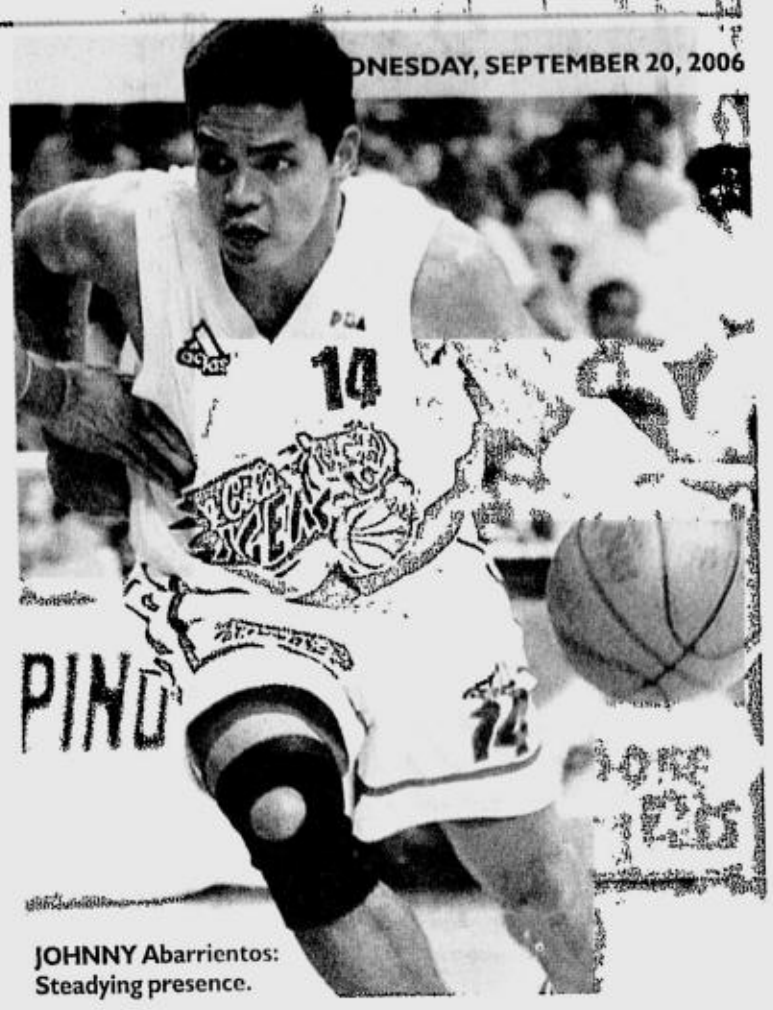
Abarrientos was included in the unrestricted free-agency list last week when the Coca-Cola Tigers released the 14-year veteran more than two weeks before the expiration of his contract Sept. 30.

The Kings are in dire need of a reliable point guard after Jayjay Helterbrand and backup Egay Echavez got sidelined by injuries. Helterbrand has again hurt his flexor muscle on the right hip during practice.

But should the 6-foot Helterbrand shows up in game shape in the opening of the PBA's 32 season on Oct. 1, Abarrientos will still come in handy for Uichico and the Gin Kings.

"He's a steady backup to Jayjay and Johnny's experience and smartness will give us the stability that we need," said Uichico.

He'll team up with Mark Caguioa, Rodney Santos and Mark Macapagal in the backcourt.



JOHNNY Abarrientos: Steadying presence.

Barrera of Mexico dull, needs Pinoy heart

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HE WAS, ONCE AGAIN, QUICK WITH his left shots but Marco Antonio Barrera was much quicker with his tongue.

He called out the name of RP boxing god Manny Pacquiao, with whom the Mexican WBC super featherweight champion had a score to settle, the moment Barrera was declared winner by decision over Rocky Juarez on Sunday.

"For me it's the best fight again with Manny Pacquiao, he's the best... I'm typically Mexican. I don't need the defeat in the first fight, I need the second," Barrera told Larry Merchant in halting English on top of the ring in Las Vegas.

Barrera couldn't be blamed. He must've felt extra super after outpointing Juarez, who the promoter and the judges had to cheat last May in his first fight with Barrera.

But, hey, Barrera must also be told he had sent not a few television spectators, including this reporter, slip to sleep with his lullaby display of superior skills.

* * *

While the fight was rated—except by two judges—a mismatch, it was generally labeled a first-class bore.

And, mind you, it was Barrera's fault that another main offering by his big boss, Oscar de la Hoya, proved a big flop with the big, classy Vegas crowd.

OK, Barrera bared everything in the arsenal of a first-class boxer.

But one thing was sorely absent—a champion's heart!

Noted the New York Times: "Barrera fought exactly where he wanted the fight to be contested. When he wanted to be in the center of the ring, they were there. When he wanted to rest on the ropes, over they went."

Juarez, the sharp ringside account added, followed Barrera around the ring as if he was attached to him by a tether.

* * *

Barrera, professorial but less than truly professional, gave a neat boxing lesson.

He was overcautious and clinical.

Of course, there's no reason to suspect he was afraid of his opponent.

But after the shorter Juarez, with limited artillery and inferior skills, failed to turn the bout into a fast-breaking match, Barrera retired to his comfortable half-court style of play.

When Barrera could have pushed the contest to a gladiatorial level, he opted to do the fighting inside the dull confines of a classroom.

Barrera was a lazy teacher reading out old notes, going through the motion, while the whole class—the boxing world—headed toward dreamland.

Said international boxing judge Salven Lagumbay, INQUIRER boxing correspondent: "Barrera can always box and win—and get booed. Maybe he'll do that to Manny just to get a win."

* * *

You know what? Out there at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, spectators were already hooting and jeering starting the fifth round.

They did not like what they were witnessing.

They were trying to avoid the specter of another prizefight hoax.

It was like this. Juarez managed to loom like a tough and classy warrior, worthy of a crown, after Barrera checked in soft and unprepared for their first fight last May.

Now, after the real Barrera showed up for the title fight on Sunday, he proved too good and sharp for Juarez.

Barrera, as the old ring saying goes, put the overrated Juarez in his proper place.

Problem: despite his overall superiority, Barrera, in charge, sent the full-house crowd wincing in despair.

Barrera definitely did not have the appetite to slug it out and go for a kill.

Who knows? When the irritated fans started booing the dull fight, they could also be calling out the name of Manny Pacquiao.

Yes, Pacquiao was originally scheduled to be at ringside for the Barrera-Juarez title fight.

When the fans started to cry out for fire and drama, not a few in the stands must have had Pacquiao in mind.

They all knew the Pacman motto that says: The only true fight is the fight with a heart. Make that read Pinoy heart.

Tagaytay-Spring Oil spills Ozamiz

VALENCIA CITY—TAGAYTAY-SPRING OIL BEAT back-to-back champion Ozamiz Cotta, 88-78, Monday for its second straight victory in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the city gym here.

The Tagaytay-Spring squad of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and his executive veep, Mayor Bambol Tolentino, led from the start but had to buck the disqualification of key players Arden Guiyab, Jeff Tajonera, Jeff Finuliar and Rodel Mallari in the final canto to prick the bubble of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's favored cagers.

Nani Epondulan added 17 to his 23-point outburst in Tagaytay-Spring's victory over Valencia Saturday to spoil the 19-point, 11-rebound performance of reigning MVP Marlon Basco in the tourney supported by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Nature's Spring, Molten, Holiday Plaza Hotel-Cebu and Prime Channel.

The North Cotabato Braves of Gov. Manny Piñol and team manager Mayor Efren Piñol bounced back from a loss to Ozamiz by subduing Mayor Jose Galaio Jr.'s Valencia Golden Harvest, 83-79, in the nightcap.

Tagaytay-Spring faces another big test tomorrow when it meets Arthro/Sjygo-backed Tribu Sugbu in Talisay City.

While Tagaytay-Spring waxed hot to open a 74-49 lead in the third quarter, Ozamiz's usually reliable stars kept on throwing bricks, shooting a dismal 15-of-71 from the field, including one-of-15 from beyond the arc.

The Braves leaned on ex-pro Tonbyboy Espinosa to frustrate the Golden Harvest, who got a big 20-point performance from last year's top rookie, Eliazar Berami.

MARLON Basco (4) of Ozamiz and Jun Tamayo (21) of North Cotabato try to tap the ball after the ceremonial toss by North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol (blue shirt). With them are NBC secretary general Tito Palma and Ozamiz's Bruce Dacia.

SPORTSWATCH

Best of the Best taekwondo unfolds

THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE SAMSUNG BEST OF THE BEST TAEKWONDO championships unfurls today with around 500 of the country's best fighters participating at the Glorieta Activity Center in Makati. Competitions in the grade school (13-and-below), juniors (14-17 years old) and seniors (18-and-above) divisions will be disputed in the five-day meet that has attracted hundreds of participants from the provinces, specifically the Visayas and Mindanao regions.

Black, Atienza cagefest guests

COACH NORMAN BLACK AND SPORTSMAN ALI ATIENZA HAVE BEEN INVITED to grace the opening of the Burlington-Philippine Advocacy League, a cause-oriented basketball tournament which opens this Saturday at the San Andres gym in Manila. Black, coach of the Ateneo Eagles in the UAAP, and Atienza, presidential adviser in sports and Manila sports council chair, are also expected to make short opening remarks. A total of 12 teams will see action in two divisions, namely Pilipinas Kong Mahal and Bantay Bata. Tournament commissioner is Fritz Gaston with Teddy Perena as executive director.

'Red flag' format for GCAP stagfest today

WITH THE "RED FLAG" FORMAT AS RULE, THE GENTLEMEN COCKERS ASSOciation of the Philippines' 5-stag derby unfolds today at the San Juan Coliseum. The first of 72 matches starts at 4 p.m., with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor.Pol Estrellado will meet his idol Patrick Antonio while Gerry Ramos and Sonny Lagon will take on Mayor Nene Aguilar and Benjie Lim. Rudy Albano will face Rep. Butch Pichay and Rey Briones; Pepito Ngo will tackle Eric dela Rosa while Mayor Dennis Pineda will go up against Louie Cua. Call 725-5369 and 725-6563.

Huge field in Roligon Stag Festival

PARTICIPANTS IN THE "STAG FESTIVAL 5-STAG" DERBY SCHEDULED AT THE Roligon Mega Cockpit will be divided into two groups after the entries reached more than 160. The first 80 participants see action on Sept. 26, and the second batch on Sept. 28. Qualifiers will advance to the 3-stag finals on Sept. 30. No less than P1.5 million in guaranteed prize awaits the winners of the three-day event, which will be hosted by Rolly Ligon. Call 851-2275; 833-1638 and 852-9812.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Royal Rose (2), Ikaw Pag-Asa Ko (5), Empire Trish (1), Dancing Slew (4)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Windtalker (7), Leica N'Raven (1), Jade Princess (5), Wind Song 93), June Siete (9)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Sunline (5), Friendly Venture (8), Sambat (6), Spark (7), Manila Style (2)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Wild Orphan (10), Formidable Jaeda (9), Fine Offer (6), Angel Eyes 95), Kawiliwili (2)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Calendar Girl (2), Iloramai (3), Selfmade (7), Septenarian (1)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Five O'Clock (5), Euphoria (3), Clear Stone (13), Golden Lance (11), Deity 914)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Pandora (11), El Love Senora (1), Idol 98), Odyssey (3), Remus (10)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Mainstay (5), Look of Love/Words of Joy (4), Honoree (11), Stradivarius (3), Queen's Gold (10), Speed King (8)

50 years of RP chess

By Roy Luarca

HIS HAIR AND MOUSTACHE HAVE TURNED white. The once sleek strides have slowed down a bit.

But mention Philippine chess and Florencio Campomanes' eyes sparkle. His sharp mind grinds and memories of the game he deeply loves rush in.

It was 50 years ago this month, when Campomanes and three other players—Glicerio Badilles, Rodolfo Tan Cardoso and Carlos Benitez—brought Filipino chess into world attention when they competed in the Moscow Chess Olympiad.

Campomanes, the Fide (international Chess Federation) honorary president who's still sprightly at 79, recalled that the team he assembled and captained literally begged for help to make the two-day air trip to the Russian capital, then still a communist stronghold.

Historic trip

In five days they were able to secure the necessary travel documents through the intercession of then Foreign Affairs Secretary (later President) Carlos P. Garcia and the funds, through Manila Chronicle publisher Geny Lopez, to make the historic trip.

Still, Campomanes' team sprung a surprise by topping Group C of the 1956 Moscow Olympiad and subsequently advancing to Group A play.

"Our participation in the 1956 Moscow Olympiad paved the way for the growth of Philippine chess beginning in the late '50s," said Campomanes, who shares the distinction of being the country's first national master with Ramon Lontoc Jr.

Campomanes, a BA cum laude graduate at the University of the Philippines and a Fulbright scholarship grantee to the US in 1948, said the help of dedicated individuals such as Spanish sardines importer Jose Calderon, Manila Chronicle editor Ernie del Rosario, Ernie Granada, made it possible for chess to blossom into one of the country's favorites sports. Campomanes estimates that from a mere 5,000 back then, there are now nearly 10 million Filipinos who play chess.

During his 14-year tenure as Fide president, Campomanes was able to stage the 1992 Manila Chess Olympiad, still considered as the country's biggest sports event with nearly 100 countries in attendance.

World Championship

Other big events Campomanes organized were the World Championship between Anatoly Karpov and Viktor Kornchoi in Baguio City in 1978 and the World Women's Championship between Maya Chiburdanidze of Georgia and Xie Jun of China in Manila in 1990.

As Fide president, Campomanes was able to increase the Fide membership form 100 to more than 150 federations from all over the world.

Campomanes left yesterday for the 2006 Fide World Chess Championship match between Bulgaria's Veselin Topalov and Russia's Vladimir Kramnik in Moscow starting Thursday.

He'll be retracing the steps that ushered in his long-time quest for excellence in Philippine chess, which he believes is in the right track under the leadership of National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay.

"The NCFP is doing well," said Campomanes. "Pichay's firm leadership and clear-cut policies are what we need right now to boost local chess."

Campomanes believes the glory days of local chess won't be long in coming.

Lions seek first title in 28 years

From page A25

same mistake in Game 1," added Dualan referring to that third-quarter slump where they only scored five points.

He expressed no regret for sitting out Gabby Espinas most of the second half, saying it was just one of the "calculated risks" a coach had to take when a player doesn't play up to par.

True to their nature, the Dolphins tried to engage the Red Lions in a shoot-out, using all their offensive resources like Jason Castro, Beau Belga and Espinas to outgun the opposition. But they ran out of ammunition in the process, with main gunner Espinas even troubled by fouls midway in the game.

Defense, which is front and center of San Beda's arsenal, hardly bothered PCU, according to Dualan. What troubled them, he said, was the 14-of-48 field goal percentage.

"We were able to take the shots but we're not making any," Dualan said. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Suzuki bet shines

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—TEAM SUZUKI, RIDING on BJ Mendoza's a sweep against 34 other riders, triumphed Sunday in the kickoff of the 2006 Philippine Underbone King Championship Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit here. Mendoza proved the efficiency of his 150 cc. Suzuki superstock underbone bike as he pulled away from the start and left the rest of the pack midway in this event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA). He wrapped up the eight-lap morning race in 15 minutes and 6.561 seconds, 20.416 seconds ahead of runner-up Jaime Barcial.

Reyes hitting it big at ripe age

By Nikko Dizon

UNLIKE IN OTHER SPORTS WHERE ATHletes retire upon reaching middle age, putting that cue stick in the storage room for good is farthest from the mind of 52-year-old Efren "Bata" Reyes

"No way, not now when prize money in tournaments is growing," Reyes told the INQUIRER in Filipino when asked if retirement was an immediate possibility.

The Hall of Famer is enjoying a previously unheard of streak of victories, and a windfall of greenbacks highlighted by a $500,000 (over P25 million) romp in the IPT 8-ball tournament in Reno, Nevada, recently.

Before that, Reyes joined hands with good buddy Francisco "Django" Bustamante in giving the Philippines the inaugural World Cup of pool title in South Wales in Britain, a victory that was worth half of the $60,000 (around P3 million) champion's prize.

That's why the $10,000 (around P500,000) that Reyes won in ruling the Jakarta leg of the 2006 San Miguel Asian 9-ball tour over the weekend was just gravy to what had been an overpowering international campaign the last three weeks.

And it was a testament to the resolve that the man called the "Magician" has, as he kept himself focused.

"But the victories also came with some luck," Reyes added.

REYES: Still focused

JESS YUSON

Aggressiveness key to Peña comeback

BOGOR, INDONESIA—FILIPINO Dado Peña will wage an all-out assault in rounds 10 to 15 of the Asian Formula Three series here as he tries to revive his faltering hopes for the overall championship.

Running sixth with a mere 60 points after the first nine rounds, Peña, of Team Goddard, still has mathematical chances for the crown but he knows it would take a lot of guts to make it happen.

"We have to be very aggressive," Peña said Tuesday. "We have to look for the highest position because Ali (Jackson) is way ahead. It's a big gap, that's no joke."

Peña, fellow Filipino Tyson Sy and the rest of the drivers revved up their engines for the qualifying session on Wednesday at the Sentul International Circuit. Race enthusiasts can log on to www.asianf3.net for updates.

"We've shown all season that we're the fastest in qualifying, we just have to pull it together in the actual race," added Peña, who has recovered from his ghastly experience in the Zhuhai races where bad luck hounded him throughout.

Like Sy of Speedtech Asia, Peña will keep a close watch on Ali Jackson of Ireland's Aran Racing who zoomed to the lead with 127 points after dominating the last six rounds in Zhuhai, China.

"He's shown that he's very good but so much in racing changes very quickly," Peña said of the 17-year-old Jackson.

SPORTS

WOODS: Pairs off with Furyk REUTERS

US reveals Ryder Cup hand

STRAFFAN, IRELAND—US SKIPper Tom Lehman was the first to show his hand at the Ryder Cup on Tuesday morning when he sent out his pairings for the first session of practice.

As expected he paired top draws Tiger Woods with Jim Furyk and sent out Phil Mickelson with Chris DiMarco.

David Toms was with Chad Campbell while wildcard choices Scott Verplank and Stewart Cink were both given rookies in the shape of Brett Wetterich and JJ Henry.

The two other rookies in the US 12-strong team, Vaughn Taylor and Zach Johnson played together, but it was unlikely they would be in action on Friday's opening day of competition in the biennial competition.

Both the US and European teams arrived in Dublin on Monday and have three days of practice at the K-Club, 30 miles (45 kilometers) west of the Irish capital before Friday.

Four fourballs will get things going on Friday morning with four foursomes to follow in the afternoon.

Saturday will see the same format with all 24 players in action on Sunday with the 12 closing singles ties.

Europe's first practice session was getting underway later Tuesday morning. *AFP*

Piccio, Bondoc lead RP golfers in Taiwan

MIA PICCIO AND GENE BONDOC head a six-player Philippine delegation that faces a familiar foe in the Acer International Amateur Golf Tournament that fires today at the Sunrise Golf Club in Taiwan.

The 14-year-old Piccio, who won the recent Jack and Madaleine Hooper Memorial Major golf crown in California recently, teams up with veteran campaigner Lora Roberto in the team event.

Crystal Superal, meanwhile, will join them in the individual competition of the 72-hole tournament which drew 100 participants from 17 countries.

Standing in their way is former RP Ladies Open champion and ex-national team mainstay Frances Bondad, who will now don the Australian colors.

Bondad was drafted by Australia to represent it during the World Amateurs, ending the possibility of her representing the country in the Asian Games this year.

Bondoc, on the other hand, is paired with Miko Alejandro in the men's side of the team tournament with Gino Bunyi, winner of the Dunlop Long Drive Challenge at Wack Wack last week, joining them in individual play.

The six are members of the national training pool under the ICTSI (International Container Terminal Services Inc.) golf program.

Ama eyes title vs STI

AMA COMPUTER IS EYEING ITS first championship today but STI will be standing in the way when they collide again today in Game 2 of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's basketball title series at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The Titans will be riding on the momentum that shifted to their favor after taking a 54-50 triumph in Game 1 last Saturday. They hope to become the league's first champion team after University of Manila relinquished the throne after five years of dominance.

Chito Jaime, the hands down favorite to win the MVP award, will again be the tower of power for the Titans. He amassed 23 big points in Game 1 to anchor Amacu's running game and at the same time lord it over the shaded lane.

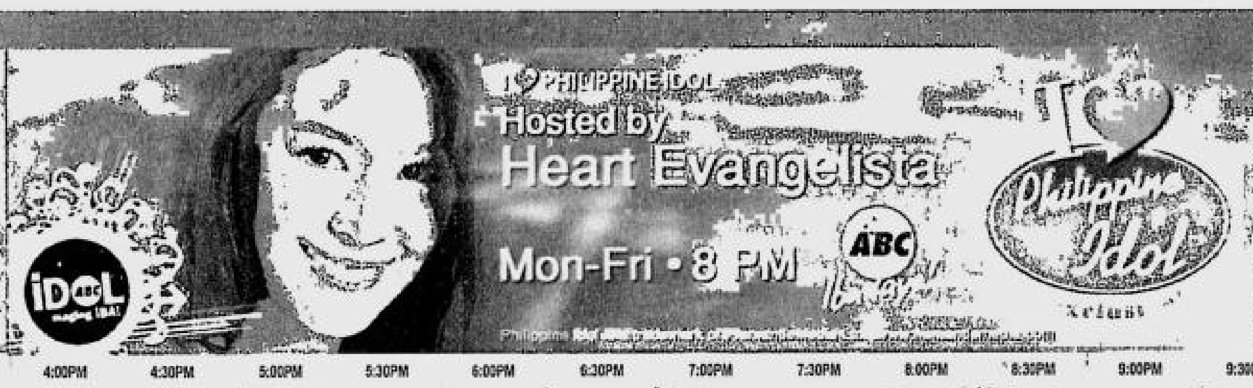
Expected to provide support are forward Patrick Mercado and point guard Robbie Zablan, who created three-way trouble to the normally free-flowing game of the Olympians.

The Olympians will try to avert a sweep through off-guard Haddi Porto and center Dexter Micutuan, who will have to step up this time.

The duo went silent for most of the fourth quarter and left Rodrigo Rufin to do the job, spelling disaster for STI the last time out.

Marc Anthony Reyes

INQUIRER



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol	Far Fetched		Frontlines		Big News	The Apprentice	Philippine Idol (11:45PM)
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Crazy For You		Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	Probe	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		CSI: NY (Season 2)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Ripley's Believe It or Not		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Samsung Sports World	World's Most Amazing Videos		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)	
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel	Robotboy	Mirmo De Pon	Pokemon: Johto Journey	Dual Justisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Salawahan				Kid, Huwag Kang Susuko				Sabel				Relasyon (9:15PM)				Bagong Buwan	
Cinemax	Night Falls On Manhattan				In Enemy Country				Dog Park			Murder 101			Lone Star				Superstition (11:40PM)
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Bones		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	I, Detective	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		True Crime				The Grid/Law Firm	
Discovery Channel	Building The Ultimate	Perfect Disaster		American Chopper		Ultimate Discovery		Kings Of Construction		Wild Discovery		Hour China		Ultimate Discovery		A Haunting		Psychic Witness	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-Talkative Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon	Kim Possible	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		English Premier Football League: Chelsea Vs Liverpool				X Games 11 Classic - BMX Freestyle		Extreme Programming Sports Max 2006/07		Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Sportscenter Asia	Classic Boxing: J. Johnson-Later Years		Classic Boxing: J. Dempsey Early Years		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		America's Next Top Model 5		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars 2		Beauty And The Geek 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Cold Turkey 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Faith In Motion	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Suffering And The Love Of God	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church & The Poor, Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	One In Their Hearts, Holiness Of Priesthood	Parable	Rome Reports	Special Programming	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Panbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Family Law		Judging Amy McBride: Is It Murder Madam					
HBO				Nightbill			Doomsday Gun (5:45 PM)				Richie Rich			Sky Captain And The World Of Tomorrow			Against The Ropes (10:45PM)		
Hero TV	Gundam Seed	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Gosaurer	Gundam Seed	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arms		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arms	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite		
JackTV		Raw				Cheat	Filter	Afterburn		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Chappelle's Show	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network		30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY: Crafts	Iron Chef America		My Country, My Kitchen	E! Entertainment Special		Life Is Great With Brooke Burke	Martha		Fine Living Special		Intimate Portrait	
MTV Philippines		Homewrecker	Room Raiders	The 2006 MTV Video Music Awards	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	MTV Screen	TRL		Homewrecker	Score	VMA 06, All Eyes On Aguilera	Homecoming	VH1 Driven: Fred Durst	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXilog	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Take 5	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic	Monkey Business	National Geographic Specials		Going to More Extremes, The Silk Route - Gobi		Planet Wild	Amazing Moments	Top 5 - Beauty?		WOW: Big Cat Challenge		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Outbreak Investigation, The Bacterial Serial Killer		Crash Scene Investigation, Runaway Train	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp.			Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Ray Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan		Ang Pagbubuyag		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Grease Gun Brothers				Ikaw Lamang Ang Buhay Ko				Ang Syota Kong Balikbayan				Markadong Hudas				Sugat Sa Puri
Qtv	Always The Two Of Us	Shaman King	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene		Sorry I Love You		Now Na!		News On Q	Balikbayan		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress	Iron Chef		Summerland		Extreme Makeover		Newswatch Now	Cargo For Truth		Kerygma
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports		2006 FIBA World C'ship Games Finals				ATP China Open SFinals2				Sagupaan	GWS 37-2006	2006 Thomas Cup Finals		Phil 9-Ball Open '06		Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Beach Volleyball FIVB Women's Poland	
Sports Plus			Golf Today	Sylvania 300 Highlights		Party Poker.com World Open '05				NASCAR Sylvania 300 NHIS								BD Lake Tahoe	Wild Side San Diego
Star Movies	The Waterboy			Shoot To Kill				If Only (6:50 PM)			The Triangle - Ep 03			Undercover Brother			Shark Zone		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Rockstar: Supernova		Boston Legal (9:10PM)		NCIS		Seinfeld	Rockstar: Supernova
Studio 23								Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	CSI	24 (8:15 PM)		It's A Guy Thing		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		Mens Room

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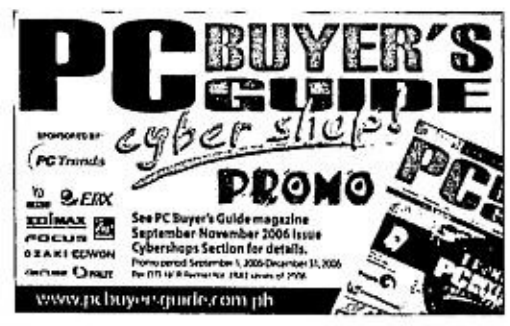


String of good news lifts peso to 50.12:$1

BSP says exporters benefit from strong currency as well

By Doris C. Dumlao

SINGAPORE—THE PESO yesterday nudged up closer to breaching the 50:$1 mark on upbeat investor sentiment in the government's fiscal progress while the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas assured even exporters would gain from the local currency's strong ascent.

The local currency yesterday hit a four-year high of 50.06 to the dollar in intra-day trading before closing at 50.12, still stronger than Monday's 50.20:$1.

In an interview at the sidelines of the joint International Monetary Fund-World Bank meetings here, HSBC Philippines treasurer Jose Arnulfo Veloso said the peso could break past the 50:$1 barrier in the next few days.

"The positive development in the fiscal front is clearly paving the way for a rally in the currency and domestic bonds and improving credit spreads of ROPs (Republic of the Philippines global bonds)," Veloso said.

The government reported on Monday a budget surplus for August, its fourth monthly surplus this year, further boosting confidence in its fiscal consolidation.

"People probably forgot that in 1999, the (local currency) depreciated by P12 (against the dollar)

STRING/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

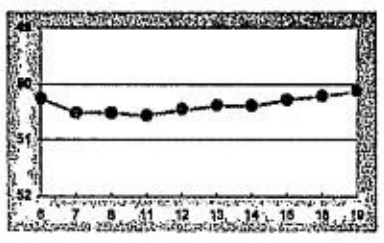
Sabio faire /B2

8-month gov't borrowings hit P414B /B3

US company bets $8.5M on RP techies /B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.12 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 19, 2006

¥ 117.66 = $1

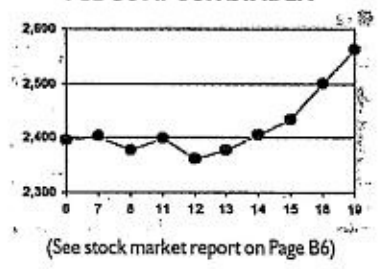
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 19, 2006

GOLD: **$581.10-581.60**

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 18, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Shares surge on upbeat economic outlook

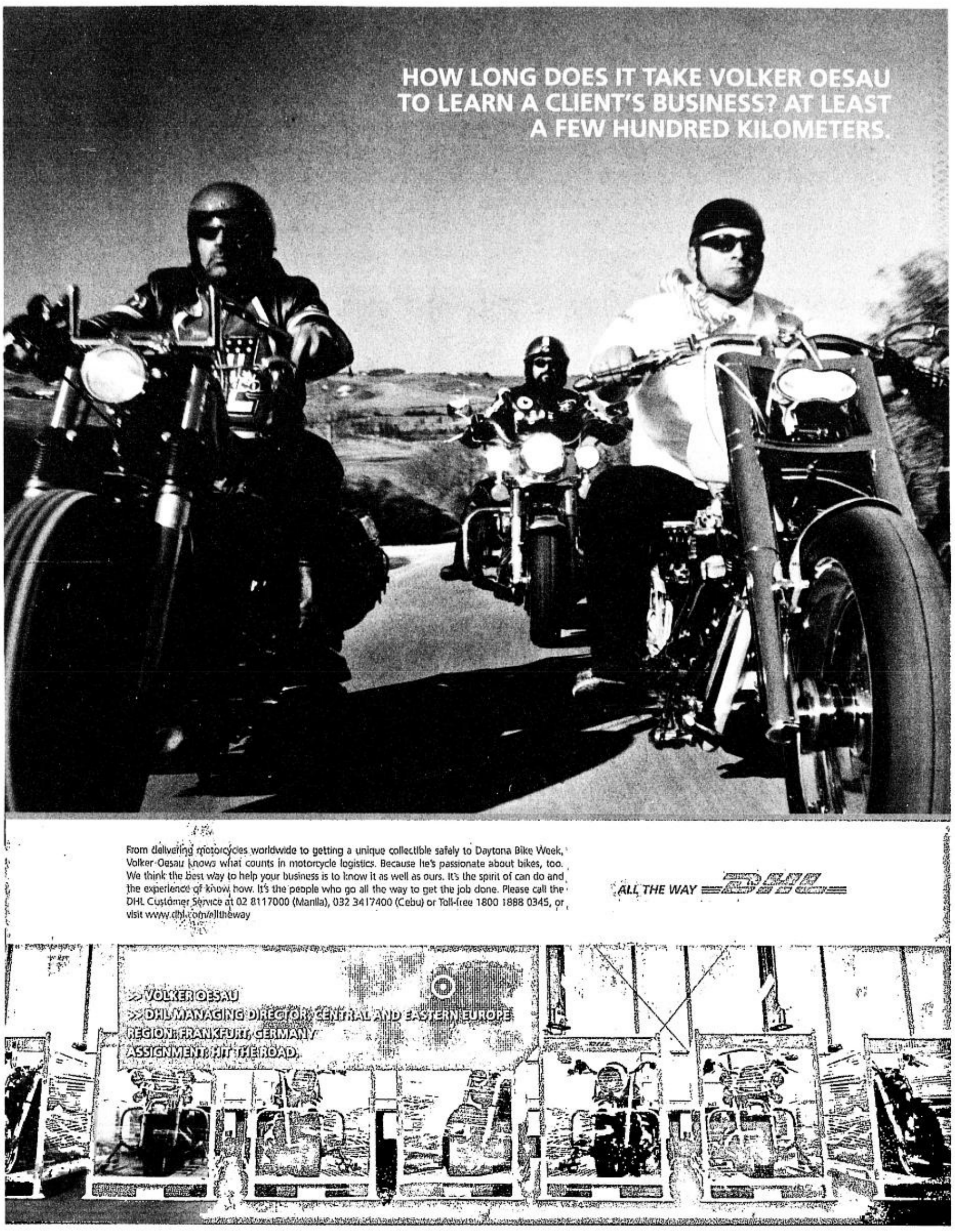
SHARES SURGED FOR A SECOND day yesterday as foreign demand, inspired by a favorable economic and fiscal outlook for the country, pushed the benchmark index to its highest close in over four months.

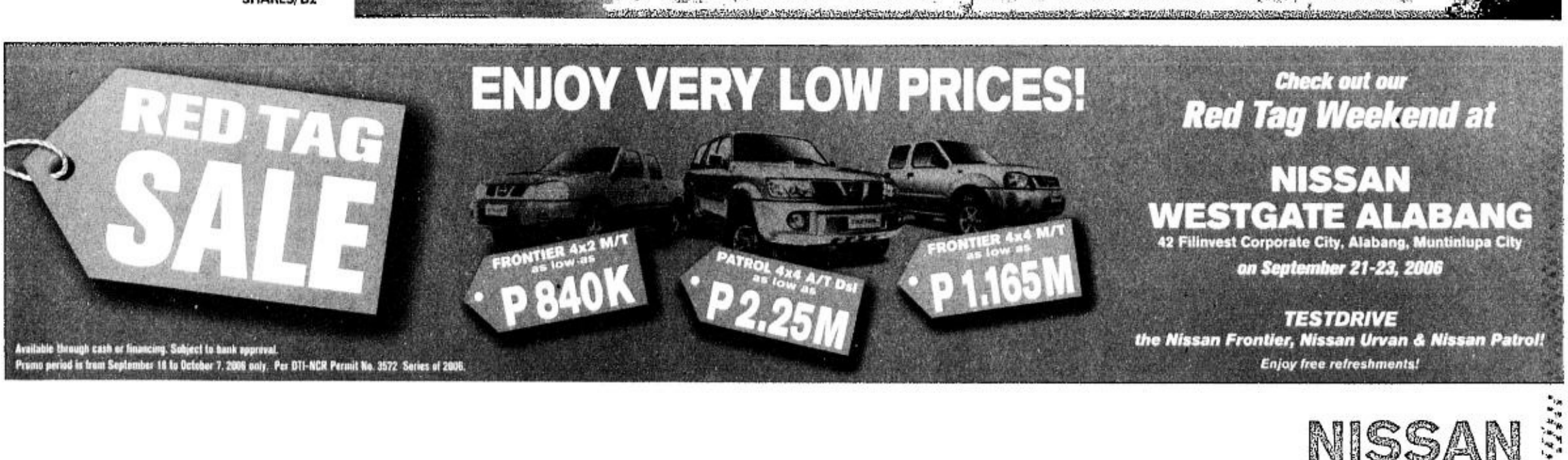
The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 61.86 points, or 2.5 percent, to 2,563.66, its best close since May 8, when it ended at 2,589.17. Tuesday's rally brings the total index gain to 8.6 percent in five consecutive sessions.

Recent favorable news and developments have translated to a positive outlook for the country, said Banco de Oro assistant vice president Fitzgerald Acian.

Among others, he cited the August budget surplus posted by the government Monday, declining oil prices, a benign inflation outlook, the peso's appreciation against the dollar, and expectations that monetary policy in both the Philippines and the US may ease by yearend.

SHARES/ B2





Shares surge . . .

From page B1

"Based on the timeline of events, the opportune time to price in all the good news into the market is now," he said.

Blue-chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, rising 3.2 percent to P3,295 on heavy volume of 545,230 shares traded, in step with the 3.8-percent gain made by the company's American depository receipts in New York on Monday.

SM Investments rose 2.2 percent to P235, along with its unit, SM Prime, which gained 2.4 percent to P8.40. During the session, SM Prime announced it will open its 27th mall located in Batangas on Friday.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco's statement Monday that monetary policy would ease if the current downtrend in consumer prices became "well-established" may have fanned interest in property stocks, traders said. Ayala Land rose 3.5 percent to P14.75, while Megaworld gained 3.3 percent to P1.90. *AP*

Sabio faire

THE MITSUBISHI PAJERO THAT PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio and his family have been using for quite some time now was provided by a top executive of San Miguel Corp., according to Sabio's relatives.

And the luxury hotel where Sabio, his family and even his driver and maid spent the last Christmas and Easter holidays is the Manila Diamond, the Roxas Boulevard hotel that has been acquired by SMC president Ramon Ang.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Reached for comment, San Miguel spokesperson Ramon Santiago categorically denied that the company had provided the SUV or any vehicle now allegedly being used by Sabio.

The SMC spokesperson also noted that the Diamond Hotel is in no way related to San Miguel or any of its subsidiaries.

Sabio, who is married to a Ledonio, is fighting his wife's eight siblings (he also fought his late mother-in-law) over a 5.8-hectare property in Las Piñas that the Ledonios claim Sabio had tricked their mother into transferring to him.

As to the Pajero, the use of other people's vehicles is apparently an established tradition in the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede has been quoted in another newspaper that he had indeed been using a brand-new Toyota Camry acquired by the sequestered Philcomsat Group and that he found nothing wrong in such an arrangement.

As to the hotel courtesies, Sabio had told two of the Ledonio siblings he and his wife were then on speaking terms with that he had been meeting with San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco and Ang in the Diamond penthouse suite to hammer out a settlement on the sequestered coconut levy shares in San Miguel.

It was not clear, though, why Sabio had to bring along his wife and household help during the confidential meetings, and also invite the other Ledonios for lunch and dinner in the same hotel.

The Ledonios, who have filed a disbarment case against their brother-in-law, also claim that Sabio's townhouse in Quezon City's Santa Mesa Heights was foreclosed by Metrobank after a P3-million loan had gone sour, and that his continued stay there is merely an accommodation because of Sabio's government status.

Robinsons' Dumaguete maneuver

THE SMALLER Robinsons has outflanked SM in Dumaguete City, and is building a mall alongside an 800-seat BPO/transcription center, ensuring a captive market just like the large Dell call center in the SM-owned Mall of Asia.

With the ferry trip across Tanon Strait taking only 40 minutes, the planned mall hopes to attract residents of southern Cebu to shop, eat and watch movies in the university town, rather than endure a two-and-a-half hour drive to the increasingly congested Cebu capital.

Groundwork for the new mall is already underway on a six-hectare property acquired from sugar trader Julio Sy.

And, as a goodwill gesture to the host city, Robinsons CEO Lance Gokongwei has agreed to be next year's commencement speaker of Silliman University, even though the mall would not open until 2008.

Nicole and the TV vultures

THE LOPEZES' ANC news channel yesterday repeatedly showed alleged rape victim Nicole being pursued by various TV news teams, ignoring desperate pleas from Nicole's handlers who were trying to hide her face as they were being chased down a staircase.

To think that Nicole had just held a press conference and the very same dogged crew had respected her wish for anonymity.

Even more puzzling, the televised chase and the replays had apparently been previewed and approved by the politically correct, female-dominated news divisions of the country's biggest TV networks.

Heard through the grapevine

THE ELECTION at the International School Manila may be over, with the 10 candidates of the institutional patrons successfully installed, but the bitter arguments continue and have even shifted to cyberspace.

The sympathizers of the ousted board have also started a blog, www.factoidal.blogspot.com, to counter the Zobel-hosted www.ismstakeholders.com.

The ousted group even posted what clearly were private, personal and confidential documents obtained from the ISM vaults.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

String of good news . . .

From page B1

in nine months," Veloso said, noting that a strong rebound now should not come as a surprise given the country's brighter economic prospects.

He said the local currency would likely settle between 48 and 49 over the medium term.

But as exporters have started complaining about the sharply rising peso, the BSP said the local currency was favorable to the economy.

"There will be always pluses and minuses but I think the exporters should also realize that the peso's appreciation has been very useful in managing risks to inflation. The peso is getting stronger at the time that oil prices are rising, so to that extent we've been able to manage the increases or adjustments in oil prices," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said.

Guinigundo, who was also attending the IMF-World Bank annual meetings, noted that since the start of the year, average Dubai crude prices had gone up by 20 percent. But the upward spike in domestic fuel prices was less than 20 percent, except for kerosene and diesel.

He noted that the price of LPG or liquefied petroleum gas has even gone down by 2-3 percent while pressures on power and petroleum prices were also somewhat dampened by the strong peso.

"Of course, peso for peso, they get less in terms of revenues, but if you look at the confidence that it has also generated, more investments are coming in, then there's also greater capacity not only for domestic production but also for exports. They are also winners in that sense," Guinigundo said.

The peso has appreciated by nearly 6 percent since the start of this year.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the exchange rate was just one of the factors affecting exporters' competitiveness in the global market.

"There are other factors which are equally, if not more important, like infrastructure or basically the cost of doing business. If you have a good infrastructure then your cost of doing business tends to go down," he told reporters.

He noted that the slip in the Philippines' global ranking in terms of ease in doing business was not due to the appreciation of the exchange rate.

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NISSAN

8-mo gov't borrowings hit P414B

78 percent of P531.6 billion programmed for this year

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S borrowings in the first eight months of the year reached P414.8 billion.

The amount represents 78 percent of the P531.6 billion in borrowings programmed by the government for the year.

Fiscal authorities said it was unlikely for the government to exceed the programmed borrowings this year.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the government had no more plan to float bonds in the remaining months of the year.

Cruz said that with the improving fiscal condition, supported by a lower-than-programmed full-year budget deficit, the full-year borrowings of the government might be lower than what was set.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that of the total borrowings as of August, P305.04 billion, or about 74 percent, was used to pay maturing obligations.

Of the total, about P169.2 billion represents borrowings from foreign creditors and bond investors, while P245.608 billion was raised locally. This represents a borrowing mix ratio of 59:41 in favor of domestic borrowings.

8-MO GOV'T/ B7

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Unbeatable Deal: Only 10 Minutes Away From Makati

When it comes to living a comfortable and quality life, Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC), the country's property developer of choice, comes to mind. With its innovative projects that highlight ease of living amidst urban settings, RLC's track record is unbeatable.

RLC's latest residential condominium project, the Woodsville Viverde Mansions gives ease of living a new, fresher, and better meaning.

A family oasis within the metropolis, it is only 10 minutes away from Ayala Avenue in Makati. Designed primarily for start-up families, it encourages one to enjoy family life to the fullest. RLC believes, one need not travel far in order to enjoy the comforts of home or spend quality time with the family. As one future resident said, "Living here will surely afford me to have a regular dinner with my family or even play with my toddlers - on time!"

Today, time is a resource that is so valuable, both financially and emotionally and RLC understand those needs. Located right after the first SLEX exit at Merville, Woodsville Viverde Mansions is a gated condo community beside Merville and is strategically situated between Nichols and Bicutan Interchanges and accessible via public and private transportation systems.

An attractive proposition for those who currently live in south of Makati, Woodsville Viverde Mansions offers the 'best choice' for local professionals who currently reside in Laguna / Cavite / Las Pinas / Muntinlupa/Paranaque areas but wanting to live closer to Makati. With the impending closure of the Alabang Viaduct for repair that is estimated to last for 2 stressful years, who needs an added 2 to 3 hours traveling time? At Woodsville, you can be home in only 10 minutes and readily enjoy an affordable suburban community that is stress-free.

"We are proud that we are developing this 3-hectare prime property that is truly within reach, so close to Makati, but certainly not with the stiff price tag associated with Makati properties, making it very competitive in the market. And what separates Woodsville from other community developments is its focus on the family's total welfare. We made sure it will be the closest families could get to nature," said RLC High Rise Buildings General Manager Mr. Danilo E. Ignacio.

But what others cannot offer, Woodsville Viverde Mansions can. "We have unbeatable deals that is hard to refuse. Our affordable models coupled with RLC's track record of completing projects on time and on specifications will definitely entice working professionals, executives and OFW's to have their first family condo here," Mr. Ignacio added. Condominium units are affordable at P1M for studio, P2M for 2-bedroom, and P2.5 for 3-bedroom units, all offering attractive payment schemes, allowing easy monthly payments. Master-planned for 14 buildings, the first condominium is ready for turnover by December 2007. For more information please call RLC High-Rise Buildings Division at 636-0888 or 0922-8380888.

And because it was also designed with children in mind, residents can experience countless ways to have fun anytime with their family, with swimming pools, indoor and outdoor playgrounds and more. It also boasts its own village mall and is in close proximity to prominent schools. With 65% open area, it literally breathes life to the family's well-being. It allows its residents to take advantage of the lush greeneries and trees, perfect for a stroll, bonding or a picnic with the family.

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Only 10 minutes away from the bustling Ayala Avenue, **Woodsville Viverde Mansions** is strategically located between Merville and Bicutan interchanges.
With its 65% open area, families can have a refreshing condo living experience - allowing residents to fully enjoy, breathe, and relax in the environment of verdant greeneries and lots of trees. **Woodsville Viverde Mansions** boast of an array of amenities specially designed for the enjoyment of children and the whole family, indoor and outdoor playgrounds, adult and children swimming pools, village mall and much more.
Units are affordably available in 2 or 3-bedroom models - all offering attractive payment schemes that allow easy monthly payments.
To know more about **Woodsville Viverde Mansions,** please visit our Model Units at the ground floor of Robinsons Galleria Mall near Ortigas entrance or call 636-0888 or 0922-8380888.
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ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION
The Property Developer of Choice

US company bets $8.5M on RP techies

Software firm drawn to skills of Filipino technology workers

By Riza T. Olchondra

MINNESOTA-BASED LAWSON SOFTWARE has opened a $2.5-million Philippine Solution and Service Center (PSSC) and has earmarked $6 million to hire and train Filipino staff members with full pay.

Lawson is expanding its reach in the Asia-Pacific, as well as Europe, the Middle East and Africa. To better serve its growing client base, the company formally opened the center at the Fort Bonifacio Global City after 9 months of startup operations.

The PSSC will serve as a support center that will develop applications and improve software products for the US headquarters to sell. The Philippine facility will also help provide after-sales services.

The center has 130 Filipino technology workers and plans to expand this pool to about 400 workers by the end of 2007. Most of these workers will be ready for Lawson's line of work after three years of training, said Jim Sanderson, vice president and chair of Lawson PSSC.

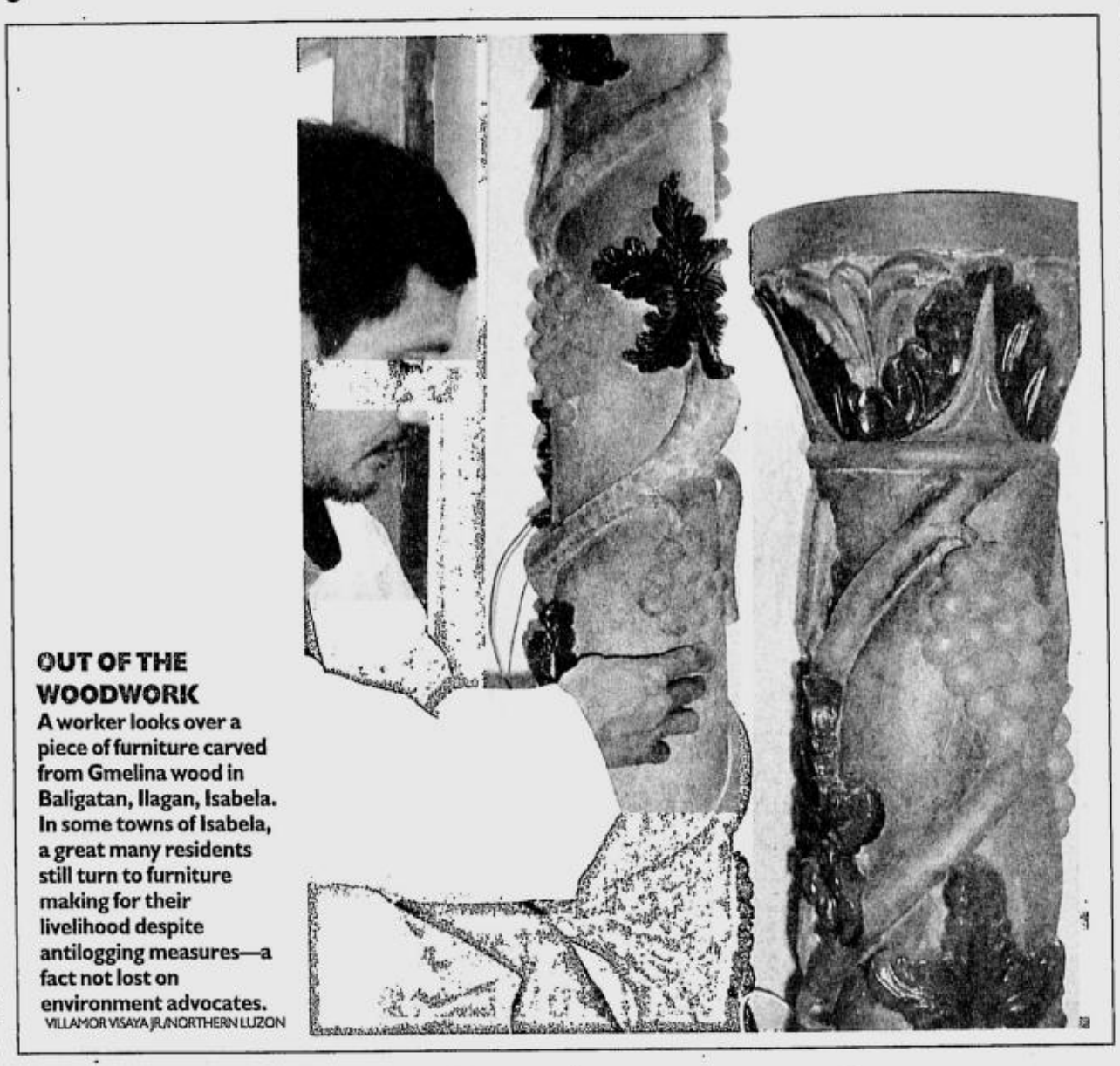
Lawson Software maintains a presence in 40 countries and provides software and service solutions to thousands of customers in manufacturing, distribution, maintenance and service sector. Among its customers are Gap, Johnson and Johnson, McDonalds and Polo.

Sanderson said his company is optimistic that its investment in Filipino technology workers will result in a long-term partnership with the local workforce. The potentials and skills of the workers were what drew them to the Philippines, preferring it over other countries in the region, he said.

Sanderson also credited the relatively good infrastructure and reliable government support from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

Peza, for its part, said foreign investment in the Philippine knowledge base is always welcome.

"Having a software industry leader like Lawson in our community shows the great talent available in our country," Ma. Lilia de Lima, Peza director-general said. "It also validates the emergence of the Philippines as a ... growing technology center."



OUT OF THE WOODWORK
A worker looks over a piece of furniture carved from Gmelina wood in Baligatan, Ilagan, Isabela. In some towns of Isabela, a great many residents still turn to furniture making for their livelihood despite antilogging measures—a fact not lost on environment advocates.
VILLAMOR VISAYA JR./NORTHERN LUZON

Taiwan firm gets tax incentives for ₱399-M outlay

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TAIWANESE FIRM WISTRON INFOCOMM (Philippines) Corp. has laid out some P399 million in a manufacturing and assembly facility for global positioning system devices in Subic.

The Board of Investments last week approved the grant of incentives for Wistron's newest project—the fifth to be registered with the agency.

The project was given nonpioneer status, even though Wistron had applied for pioneer perks. The BOI explained that it was not the first firm that had gone into the manufacture of GPS devices. Two other firms that are registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority are already making the electronic devices.

GPS is a satellite navigation system that allows users to determine where they are at any weather any time, anywhere on the globe.

For Wistron, a nonpioneer status comes with a four-year tax holiday, duty-free importation of capital equipment, as well as other fiscal and nonfiscal incentives.

Wistron's new production facility at the Subic Bay Industrial Park Phase 1, would be financed through equity and advances from its parent company.

Wistron Infocomm, the local unit of Taiwan's Wistron Corp., is also engaged in the manufacture of motherboards and laptop computer units. It is the largest export earner in Subic.

The GPS factory, which started commercial operation last July, gave jobs to 176 people.

The production line can turn out 2 million units of GPS devices a year, all of which are meant for markets overseas.

PNOC-EDC scales down wind power project capacity

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO. ENERGY Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) has scaled down to 30 megawatts (MW), from the original 40 MW, the capacity it will be requiring bidders to build the first phase of its 120-megawatt (MW) Northern Luzon Wind Power Project (NLWPP).

The transmission line component of the project had also been struck out of the package and would instead be sourced locally, PNOC-EDC president and chief executive Paul Aquino said.

The revision of the project's specifications, he said, would pave the way for bidding expected within the next 45 days.

PNOC-EDC had earlier conducted a bidding for the project, but the bids it got were much higher than the loan that the Japan Bank for International Cooperation had approved for the project.

JBIC approved a $68-million loan for the NLWPP's first phase.

The entire 120-MW project is divided into three phases.

The first phase involves the construction of a 40-MW wind farm facility in Burgos, Ilocos Norte, a 42-kilometer transmission line connecting the facility to the Transco substation in Laoag, and a switchyard at the site.

Interconnection work at the Laoag substation to accommodate the project will also be undertaken by the winning bidder for the transmission line contract.

The revised specifications for Phase 1, however, reduced the capacity requirement to just 30 MW and did away with the transmission facility component.

Phase 2 involved the construction of another wind farm with a capacity of 40-60 MW, while Phase 3 entailed the establishment of yet another wind farm with a capacity of 10-20 MW.

Aquino did not say whether the specifications of the next two phases would also be altered.

People, Events & Products

The Heritage Park opens The Pavilion

THE HERITAGE PARK, THE COUNTRY's most innovative memorial park, will hold the opening of its much awaited structure, The Pavilion, today. The multimillion peso Asian-inspired structure, located in an elevated and picturesque section of the park, will be the focal point for serving the memorialization needs of the Park's Filipino-Chinese clientele and those who prefer cremation over traditional interment

The Pavilion is an architectural marvel incorporating many features of classical Asian architectural design-a balanced and symmetrical layout, an elaborately curved roof design, ornate architectural detail, and a pagoda-like pavilion which serves as the building's main structure.

The Entrance Hall of The Pavilion is designed and patterned after a temple gate and serves as the main foyer. Inside are spacious columbarium

halls where individual and companion niches for urns are located. The structure also features an open courtyard where incense vases and burning receptacles are available for traditional rites and practices. Water features and elegant landscaping completes the overall Asian character of the Pavilion.

Guests planning on holding traditional ceremonial functions will find The Pavilion's amply spaced main courtyard more than suited to satisfy their requirements. Smaller functions can be held in the multi-purpose hall called the Tea House which is situated right beside the main structure.

Yet more than just a marvel of Asian architecture, the Pavilion is a place designed to uplift one's spirit. Situated atop the park where the verdant green seemingly meets the tranquil sky, one has to experience its wonders first-hand to know how it is truly a Columbary like no other.

Located in Fort Bonifacio, The Heritage Park is five minutes away from the Manila Golf Club and Manila Polo Club. It is accessible from three major thoroughfares, Edsa, via McKinley Road, South Superhighway via Lawton Avenue and Circumferential Road 5 (C5). Heritage Park is also near the Global City and the Makati Commercial District. For inquiries, call 845-2334 to 38 or e-mail sales@heritagepark.com.ph.

Art conservation for the tropics

ANNALI GARCIA, NOTED FILIPINA art restorer based in Italy, will hold a series of one-day seminars of Art Conservation at the Ricco Renzo Galleries and Caffe, 210 Nicanor Garcia Street (formerly Reposo Street) in Makati City.

Interested artists, curators, students and art enthusiasts are welcome to join the seminar on any of the following dates: Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 14, 28, Nov. 18 and 25. Seminar fee is P3000 for a four-hour lecture session (1:30 p.m. through 5:30 p.m.) inclusive of snacks.

Annali graduated from UP Diliman in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in Interior Design. After working as lead designer with various architectural firms, Annali received an AECI scholarship award from Spain, where she obtained her Masters in Architectural Conservation.

In 1999, Annali was offered an Italian grant to specialize in art restoration. She organized a company in Florence engaged in art restoration for paintings, ceramics and fabric called Annali Garcia Design. A registered artisan in the National Guild of Italy, Annali hopes to pursue the set up of an Asian hub for her services to target Malaysia and China in cooperation with Ricco Renzo galleries.

Topics to be included in the seminar are: Cataloging and Classification System for Art Collectors; Preventing Deterioration of an Art Collection; Assessing Damage to Art Pieces; Basic Principles of Restoration; Materials for Art Conservation; Tips for Investing in Art; International Guidelines from Iccrom and Unesco.

CONCERT FOR A CAUSE
Jose Mari Chan and Jamie Rivera recently signed a contract with Odyssey Foundation Inc (OFI) for a benefit show titled 'Concert for a Cause' slated Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. at the Meralco Theater in Pasig City. Signing the contract for the Foundation is Dindo Danao (right), executive director. Proceeds of the show will benefit the Holy Trinity Home for Children in Sauyo, Quezon City. For ticket inquiries, call 294-0681 or 291-1599.

Seasoning tomorrow's great chefs today

THE AMERICAN HOSPITALITY Academy, Philippines (AHA), the country's youngest culinary school, and the only American culinary school in the Philippines, is all set to spice up the field of culinary education and training.

AHA is adding "two big dashes of seasoning" to its regular courses, the six-month Diploma in Culinary Arts (DCA), and the 9-month Diploma in Culinary Entrepreneurship (DCE) programs. The "seasonings" come in the form of two innovative programs intended to "internationalize" culinary education. These programs are meant to open doors to new learning, and provide its students a wider exposure to the bigger world of culinary arts as an emerging field.

The first program dubbed "Visiting Chefs Program" will feature international luminaries in the field of culinary arts, who will come to the Philippines and share their expertise with students and culinary enthusiasts. Visiting Chefs will be conducting a series of cooking demonstrations and career talks.

"Our present lineup of visiting chefs is excited about coming to the Philippines and is raring to share its skills and talents with Filipino students", says chef Gene Cordova, president of AHA Philippines. Visiting chefs will conduct a series of cooking demonstrations for various audiences, showcasing different methods and techniques. Career talks are meant to excite students about the vast career opportunities open to them internationally as culinary practitioners. "We want our students to be motivated and inspired to build a career in the culinary field", he added.

The second program undertaken by AHA is the US Culinary Internship-in coordination with its mother unit, the American Hospitality Academy based in South Carolina. AHA in the United States has developed what is now regarded as the most prestigious internship program for hospitality students. Dubbed as Servlead, it is the only internship program recognized and endorsed by the Educational Institute of the American Hotel and Lodging Association (EI-AH@LA), the most prestigious hospitality industry organization in the United States. Developed by a team of University professors worldwide, the Servlead program draws hospitality students from over 60 countries around the world as interns in top hotels and resorts in the United States. Apart from enhancing their competencies learned in school, and gaining an international exposure, students stand to develop multicultural and leadership skills, which are the key competencies that employers around the world look for in their employees.

As a J1 visa sponsor, the US AHA has partnered with top hotels in the United States to give this valuable training experience to students around the world. AHA Philippines, being the first AHA school to be established outside of the United States, enjoys top priority in terms of student placements. Student interns are hosted by leading hotel properties in the United States, such as the Ritz Carlton, Marriott, Hyatt, and many more.

"The Servlead experience is a valuable learning experience that every student of hospitality must go through, to gain a competitive advantage in this global industry", says Cindi Reiman, president of the US AHA. "The skills that students stand to gain by going through the Servlead program will complement what they learned in school. It is the best way to prepare oneself to work in a global industry that is fast growing, multicultural and guest oriented". Open to Filipino students and graduates of hotel and restaurant management and tourism, AHA undertakes the orientation and screening of all applicants to the Servlead internship program.

This coming October will mark the AHA week and a lot of activities related to these programs will be launched. This will signal the arrival of the first visiting chef, who will do a series of cooking demonstrations and career talks. Human resource directors of AHA partners hotels in the United States will also come over to interview applicants for internship.

Seminar on 'Doing Business in China' slated this Friday

RECOGNIZING CHINA'S PHENOMENAL ECONOMIC GROWTH and its emerging consumer powerhouse, the Strategic Business Economics Program (SBEP) of the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), invites the public to a seminar on "Doing Business in China" to be held on Sept. 22 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the PLDT Hall, 4th floor, ACB Building, UA&P, Pearl Drive, Ortigas. Registration is at P5,000 per participant. All SBEP alumni and Business Economics Club (BEC) members will be given a discounted rate of P4,000 per participant. For confirmation and inquiries, call Alonica Salazar or Ira Coates at 634-2820, 634-3095 or 637-0912 loc. 222.

Globe Telecom taps Nokia for upgrading of network

Ayala subsidiary to make most of 3G technology

By Riza T. Olchondra

ABLAZA

GLOBE TELECOM INC. HAS partnered with Nokia to fast track its plan to offer 2G and 3G services to all of its subscribers, whether they are using a mobile phone connection or Internet services.

The two companies have started deploying applications to upgrade the Ayala group's mobile phone subsidiary's core network and plug it into Nokia's mobile 'softswitch' server.

When completed, the improved connection will allow Globe to use Nokia's multi-technology network and service management solution, Voice over IP (VoIP) server, and IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS).

With this service, an overseas Filipino worker can for example call home using his mobile phone's videoconferencing feature and then see his family in the Philippines, who may be using a PC with an Internet connection.

VoIP, video sharing and other applications may also be used, thanks to 3G technology that allow faster transmission of video and data.

Globe sees this integration as a tool to build the digital communities within the Philippines and families of overseas Filipino workers.

"The contract with Nokia ... will enable Globe to offer a whole suite of innovative services to our customers in a cost-efficient manner," Globe CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr said in a statement.

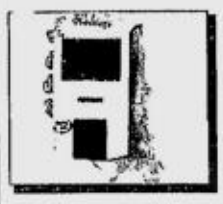
With over 100 customers for its mobile switching and over 50 live networks, Nokia is the most experienced mobile switching supplier worldwide.

Nokia's IMS for fixed and mobile has been in commercial use since last year.

With 20 convergence trials, enabling personalized VoIP and multimedia, Nokia is paving the way for the use of access technologies such as wireless networks.

"The Nokia mobile softswitch is an excellent solution for core network optimization, bringing significant cost-savings for operators," Nokia's networks accounts director, Tapani Sairanen, said in a statement.

DOUBLE CHECK DIABETES



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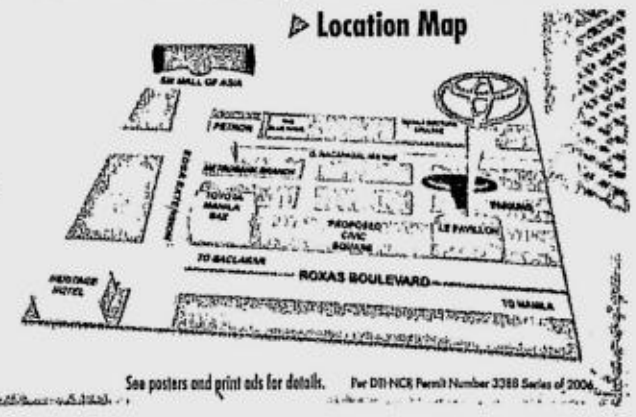

See posters and print ads for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 3388 Series of 2006

Vitarich bares debt payment plan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

POULTRY AND FEEDS PRODUCER VITARICH Corp. is looking at two strategies to pay some P3.2 billion in bank loans.

Vitarich said in its petition for rehabilitation submitted to the Philippine Stock Exchange that the first strategy involves the restructuring of its debt.

The plan assumes that interest rates will be reduced from about 9 percent to 1-4 percent and the repayment period will be extended from 12 to 15 years.

The second strategy, on the other hand, involves the conversion of half of the debt into "receiver's capital notes."

These notes will give its holders common share-like benefits, such as a share in the profits of the company, but without the right to vote.

Shares of Vitarich were suspended on Tuesday after it said it would go through a 15-year rehabilitation program.

Vitarich filed its petition for debt relief with the regional trial court of Malolos, Bulacan, where its facilities are based.

It cited financial constraints stemming from the Asian currency crisis of 1998 and the aviation flu outbreak that slashed sales of chicken.

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September 26, 2006
Business Applications
- Open Source and Banking
- OWASP top 10 Web Application Vulnerabilities
- OpenRules: an open source Business Rules Management Suite
- Migrating office automation tools to OpenSource - The Prudentialife experience

Programming and Systems Development
- Ruby: An Introduction
- High Availability and Application Clustering
- The International Open Source Network: Consolidating FOSS Advocates through Strategic Networking
- Jabber and VoIP: Putting Jabber to the Test

Voice and Technology
- Free, as in Free in Speech
- Enterprise Telephony Solutions
- Asterisk Tutorial
- Asterisk Tutorial

September 27, 2006
Business Applications
- Current Advances in Open Source Security and Honeynet Technologies
- Ubuntu Server - ready for the enterprise
- Open Source and Banking
- Open Source and Health: Opportunities for SMEs in Information Technology

Programming and Systems Development
- Hands on: Webgoat
- Ruby in Rails
- Commercial database on an Open Source Environment
- Building Scalable Telecom Databases with MySQL

Voice and Technology
- Integrating Asterisk with the Philippine Telecommunications Providers
- Asterisk and PHP: Creating Dynamic Dial Plans
- Setting Up Shop: Building a Call Center on Open Source
- Custom CTI Applications with Asterisk

September 28, 2006
Business Applications
- IPv6: What it is and Why Governments and Business Ought to Care
- Linux CDs: Restoration Solution for NTFS
- Benchmarking OpenSource Business Applications
- Open Source in the Banking Industry

Programming and Systems Development
- CakePHP: progressing into a PHP framework
- Deploying a thinclient solution with LTSP and Ubuntu
- Cross-Platform Development: Linux and Microsoft
- Developing SIP Applications

Voice and Technology
- Unified Communications Systems
- UMS: Advancing your PABX
- Open Source VoIP
- VoIP Framework in the Philippines

Note: Some topics may change without prior notice

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DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has disclosed the sale of a total of 500 shares by First Vice President Celso T. Dimarucut on September 18. A total of 200 of the shares were sold for P2,200 each, another 200 shares for P2,205 each, and the remaining 100 were sold for P2,210 apiece.

***

RENATO B. Magadia has been elected Chairman of the Board and President of **Metro Alliance Holdings and Equities Corp.** Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Nestor S. Romulo and Weslie T. Gatchalian were likewise appointed Treasurer, Corporate Secretary and Executive Vice President, respectively.

***

BERTRAND C. Yao and lawyer David L. Kho have been elected directors of **Global Equities Inc.**, following the resignation of Mario A. Oreta and Edmundo S. Isidro.

***

JOHN L.W. Lee, Say Hing Wong, Dionisio E. Carpio Jr., Edna D. Reyes, and Bobby Cheng Sai Chong have been elected directors of **Medco Holdings Inc.** Caly D. Ang and Solomon R.B. Castro were also elected independent directors.

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 19, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	38.5	39	38	39	3,375,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56.5	59	56.5	58.5	3,852,000
China Banking Corp.	690	700	690	700	730
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.42	0.43	0.41	0.42	14,820,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	77	77.5	76.5	76.5	68,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40	42	40	41.5	2,685,400
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	47	47	45	45	800
Philippine National Bank	33.5	34.5	33.5	34	55,400
Phil. Savings Bank	42	42.5	41	42.5	6,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	7,000
Security Bank Corp.	52.5	53	52	53	44,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	44.5	44.5	11,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	20,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.8	3.15	2.8	3.15	2,312,000
First Abacus Financial	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	20,000
Filipino Fund Inc	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	1,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30	30.5	30	30.5	11,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1590	1590	1590	1590	170
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	130,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2000	1985	2000	2,260
Ivantage Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	1,861,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49	50	49	50	991,900
First Phil Hldgs Corp	49	49.5	49	49	1,508,600
Manila Electric Co. A	19	19.25	19	19	317,100
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	1,244,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2	6,694,000
Petron Corp.	3.9	4	3.9	3.95	5,893,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	219,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	28,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	31,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34	35.5	34	35.5	623,600
Rfm Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.84	0.88	550,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.7	3.75	973,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	90,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	47,900
San Miguel Corp. B	72	73.5	72	73.5	116,500
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.5	18	18.25	8,985,700
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	2,950,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.76	4,751,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	145,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.9	5.2	4.9	5.2	4,586,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5	5	5	5	7,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.3	1.34	1.3	1.3	130,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.65	3.85	3.55	3.6	777,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.48	0.52	0.48	0.52	80,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.49	0.56	0.49	0.5	540,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.49	0.5	39,680,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.155	0.17	0.15	0.155	31,710,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	5,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	240,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	29,000,000
Ayala Corp.	465	477.5	465	477.5	310,800
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	60,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.2	5	5.2	18,827,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.029	0.03	0.028	0.028	15,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	1.98	247,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.235	0.235	710,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	19,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.93	0.94	1,740,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.2	395,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.34	16,410,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.85	3.85	1,459,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	1,171,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	6	6.3	6	6.2	1,525,000
Medco Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	450,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.34	1.36	3,515,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	600,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	5,120,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	70,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
SM Investments Corp.	230	236	230	235	2,018,350
South China Resources Inc	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	100,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	85,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11	3,610,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	300,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.75	15	14.5	14.75	16,945,600
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	17,095,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.34	0.38	0.34	0.34	5,750,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.95	2.8	2.95	4,172,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	238,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	4,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.52	16,590,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	10,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.065	0.065	0.0625	0.0625	1,900,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.44	11,901,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.14	1,500,000
Gotesco Land, Inc.B	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.15	50,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	18,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,120,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.48	0.56	0.48	0.56	3,670,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.86	1.94	1.86	1.9	130,516,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.9	4	3.85	3.9	378,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	460,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13.25	13	13	2,965,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.41	1,940,000
SM Development Corp.	1.8	1.86	1.8	1.82	289,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.4	27,599,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.6	0.63	0.6	0.61	750,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.0925	0.0925	1,800,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.5	17	16.5	16.75	101,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1	1	1	1	10,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.32	1.34	1.28	1.3	10,300,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1045	1075	1045	1070	114,850
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.6	4.7	4.55	4.7	11,408,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2230	2300	2225	2295	545,230
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.98	2.04	1.98	2.04	122,000
Ipvg Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	300,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.045	12,100,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	2,900,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.027	0.028	150,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.35	3.7	3.35	3.7	1,253,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	320,900
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	40,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	1,587,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.02	2.06	1.98	2.06	4,531,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	4,780,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	550,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	5,000
Far Eastern University	840	840	840	840	10
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Easycall Phils. Inc. Com	3.4	4	3.4	4	23,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.06	2.08	134,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.25	10.25	623,500
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	34,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.8	5.1	4.8	4.95	2,978,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	4.75	5.1	4.75	4.9	1,214,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	449,900,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.5	8.6	8.4	8.4	674,000
Benguet Corp. A	10.25	10.25	10	10	32,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.24	0.23	0.235	11,470,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	15,280,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.021	966,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.025	298,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	847,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.75	3.75	13,269,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	21	21	20.75	20.75	193,500
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	91,700,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	12,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.04	890,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	330,000
Pnoc Exploration Corp.-B	13	13	13	13	1,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.25	10.25	9.8	9.8	163,000
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	104	104	104	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	16.75	17	16.75	17	453,800

CURRENCIES

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
September 19, 2006				
United States	Dollar	0.789453	1.000000	50.2690
Japan	Yen	0.006719	0.008511	0.4278
United Kingdom	Pound	1.484645	1.880600	94.5359
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101441	0.128495	6.4593
Switzerland	Franc	0.628746	0.796432	40.0358
Canada	Dollar	0.705435	0.893575	44.9191
Singapore	Dollar	0.499022	0.632111	31.7756
Australia	Dollar	0.593128	0.751315	37.7679
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.094151	2.652661	133.3466
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210504	0.266645	13.4040
Brunei	Dollar	0.497450	0.630120	31.6755
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021199	0.026853	1.3499
UAE	Dirham	0.214946	0.272272	13.6868
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.266700	63.6757
Argentina	Peso	0.255074	0.323102	16.2420
Brazil	Real	0.366387	0.464102	23.3299
Denmark	Kroner	0.134037	0.169785	8.5349
India	Rupee	0.017181	0.021763	1.0940
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215169	0.272554	13.7010
Mexico	New Peso	0.072208	0.091466	4.5979
New Zealand	Dollar	0.522540	0.661901	33.2731
Norway	Kroner	0.120868	0.153104	7.6964
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013064	0.016548	0.8319
Korea	Won	0.000826	0.001046	0.0526
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023973	0.030367	1.5265

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RP seen benefiting from Asia's dynamism

By Doris C. Dumlao

SINGAPORE—AS ASIA'S ECONOMIC boom reverberated across the joint International Monetary Fund-World Bank meetings being held in the region for the first time since the 1997 currency crisis, the Philippines is reminded not only of how much it has lagged behind its neighbors but also of its vast potentials for growth.

"It's an exciting time and exciting message for a country like the Philippines, which is positioned where it can benefit significantly from being in this dynamic neighborhood," World Bank country representative Joachim von Amsberg told the INQUIRER at the opening of the joint IMF-World Bank annual meetings yesterday.

Amsberg said that with the majority of the countries in the region developing in a speed that had not been seen before, the Philippines appeared to be not living up to its potentials.

Since the turn of this decade, the Philippines' per capita income and that of Indonesia, estimated at about $1,100, had slipped from above to below the regional average.

Per capita income was about $27,000 in Hong Kong, $24,000 in Singapore, $15,000 in Taiwan, $14,000 in South Korea, $5,000 in Malaysia, $2,500 in Thailand, $1,400 in China, $600 in Mongolia and Vietnam and about $400 in Laos and Cambodia, based on World Bank estimates.

Rodrigo de Rato, IMF managing director and executive board chair, said Asia had emerged as the most dynamic region in the world, noting that foreign direct investments lured by Southeast Asia had surpassed pre-crisis levels to hit $38 billion in 2005.

Nine years ago, Southeast Asia was the epicenter of the currency turmoil that caused unprecedented currency devaluation resulting in economic downturns and corporate defaults in four of its biggest economies—Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. South Korea was also hit by the regional turmoil.

The IMF-World Bank institutions called on Asia, despite its recent success, to further move forward, especially in raising the living standards of the poor. About 20 percent of the people in the region still live in extreme poverty.

The IMF's 184-member countries approved on Monday a resolution raising the voting rights of China, South Korea, Mexico and Turkey to reflect these countries' increased economic prowess. But the rest of the developing world under the Group of 24, which is chaired by the Philippines this year, demands more reforms to increase voice and representation in both the IMF and World Bank.

"The Bretton Woods institutions must adapt to the many critical changes in the world economy since its foundation. It is therefore imperative for the credibility, relevance and legitimacy of our institutions that voice representation and participation reflect the realities of the 21st century—not the last century," said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

15% of sugar production eyed for export

THE COUNTRY MAY EXPORT UP TO 336,000 tons of raw sugar to the United States and other markets in the present crop year, the head of the government's sugar watchdog said.

James Ledesma, head of the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), said the government had earmarked up to 15 percent of the country's projected raw sugar output of 2.24 million tons in the current crop year, which runs from September to August 2007, for exports.

Ledesma said about 1.9 million tons, or 85 percent of the total projected output, would be used in the domestic market.

He said his agency had allocated 201,600 tons or 9 percent of target production for export to the United States, the country's traditional market.

Another 134,400 tons or 6 percent of the projected output will be exported to markets other than the United States.

"Any decision to export sugar outside of the US market will be done in 2007, depending on the progress of the harvest," Ledesma said.

He said the country would export sugar to nontraditional markets if initial harvests indicate output would reach at least 2.24 million tons.

If initial production indicates production will be lower than the target, the country will not export to other markets, Ledesma said.

He said the SRA would be able to determine around November if the country could sell sugar to markets other than the United States in the present crop year when it makes another review on the harvest. *Reuters*

Gov't drumming up investor interest in $683-M LRT1 project

By Riza T. Olchondra

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS ARE given up to Oct. 6 to submit their expressions of interest for the $683-million LRT Line 1 south extension project, the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) said.

The project involves the 11.7-kilometer extension of LRT1 to the cities of Parañaque and Las Piñas, and on to the municipalities of Bacoor, Imus and Dasmariñas in Cavite. LRT1 currently runs from Monumento in Caloocan City to Baclaran.

The extended line is expected to serve about 800,000 passengers a day and cut travel time from Cavite to Monumento to about 1 hour from an average of 2 hours at present.

The expressions of interest should contain the prospective bidders' corporate profile, relevant expertise on similar projects and financial capability.

An LRTA official said the prospective bidders should indicate how munch of the project cost they would finance.

The officer said the LRTA board recently submitted the project's updated feasibility study and proposed concession contract to the National Economic and Development Authority's Investment Coordinating Committee (Neda-ICC) for approval.

The project's cost was earlier trimmed to $683 million from $841.486 million.

The bidding process will start when the updated proposal is approved by the Neda-ICC, the official said.

Prospective bidders were required to submit expressions of interest in participating in the auction to give the LRTA an idea of whether private groups would be willing to finance 100 percent of the project cost.

The government could have as much as 50-percent equity participation in the project but it preferred to have a fully private investment in the project.

BPO firm expanding

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BUSINESS PROCESS OUTsourcing boom has spilled over Marikina City, as American firm ICT Group Philippines formally launches its third call center in the country on Thursday at the Riverbanks Center.

ICT Group had started operation at the Riverbanks last February, where its 7,000-sq.m complex now hosts 1,100 workstations and 1,400 employees.

The company, whose parent company is based in Newtown, Pennsylvania, opened its first site in Makati City in 2003 and the second at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City in 2004.

The three facilities, which account for a combined 2,800 workstations, cater to some 30 clients and programs in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia.

Also, company officials said in a statement that ICT Group was in the process of looking for sites within Metro Manila as well as outside the nation's capital for expansion projects in 2007.

"We are very pleased with the success and rapid growth of our Philippines operations," said John J. Brennan, company chair and chief executive.

8-mo gov't borrowings . . .

From page B3

The government has adopted the policy of borrowing less from foreign sources to minimize the country's exposure to foreign exchange risk.

The government borrows from overseas through sovereign bond flotation and official development assistance from multilateral and bilateral agencies. The Philippines' biggest ODA sources are the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Domestic borrowings are raised through regular auctions of treasury bills and bond.

In August alone, the government borrowed a total of P73.312 billion. Of the amount, P40.663 billion came from external sources while P32.649 billion was raised locally.

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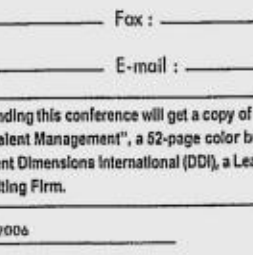

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"Dr. Irani is a Ph.D. from the University of Sheffield, U.K. The Tata Group with revenues in 2004-05 of $18 billion, (the equivalent of about 2.8% of India 's GDP) employing some 215,000 people in over 40 countries (its' products are available in 140 countries) is one of India 's largest business conglomerates, comprises 93 operating companies (32 publicly listed).

The Tata Group is in seven business sectors: information systems and communications; engineering; materials; services; energy; consumer products; and chemicals. In 2000 Tata Group purchased the United Kingdom's Tetley Tea and followed this move with other big overseas acquisitions and investments."

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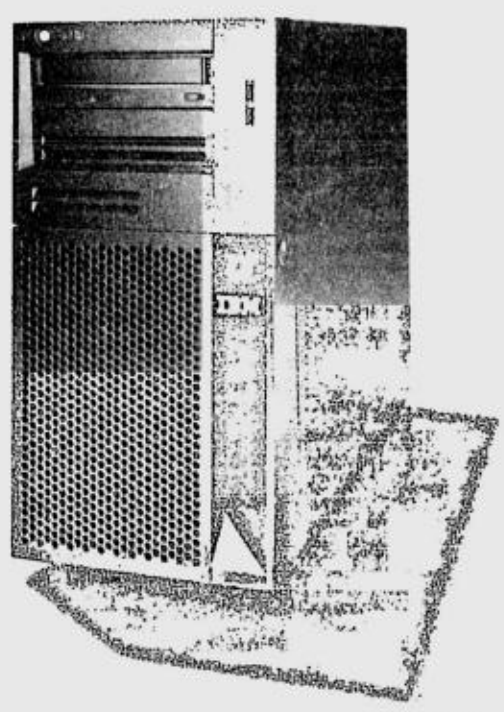

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MESSAGES

Our warmest greetings and sincerest congratulations to the Board of Directors, Officers and Staff of Puyat Steel Corporation as you celebrate your 50th Anniversary on September 20, 2006.

The steel industry plays an indispensable role in the Philippine economy, and the sector's development can subsequently boost the performance of the steel-consuming strategic industries such as construction and infrastructure, automotive and transport, industrial engineering, machinery, equipment, tools and appliance manufacturing, consumer durables, and other allied industries.

To encourage the entry of critical investments into the sector, projects involving iron making and manufacture of primary and intermediate steel products continue to be listed in the Board of Investment's Annual Investment Priorities Plan (BOI-IPP). The modernization of existing facilities engaged in the manufacture of specific intermediate steel products are also being encouraged and thus listed in the IPP.

In meeting the exacting needs of the local as well as the foreign markets, the steel sector faces tough challenges brought about by trade liberalization, fast emerging borderless economies, and the recent significant changes in the demand and supply of steel not only in Asia but also in the world on account of the developments in the steel industries of important economies like China.

However, I remain optimistic that these challenges will motivate companies in the sector like Puyat Steel Corporation, along with other industry players whose spirits are as tough as steel, to draw on their inner strengths, put up a positive, vigilant and innovative front in response to the challenges, and at the same time, be quick to conquer the opportunities that come with these challenges (e.g., greater access to foreign markets and to raw materials that are not available locally or are available but in limited quantities).

I trust that the local industry players will collaborate, foster stronger linkages, explore possibilities for consolidation, tap opportunities in terms of raw materials, new technologies, innovative practices or process improvements, energy saving measures, and many more with the end in view of enhancing their capabilities, improving competitiveness and therefore maintain or expand market shares.

As any movement in the Asian and global steel industry landscapes will have a great impact on our own local steel industry, let us all therefore continue to collaborate towards advancing the development of our country's steel sector.

Again, our sincere congratulations and best wishes to Puyat Steel Corporation on your 50th Anniversary. *Mabuhay!*

PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry
Republic of the Philippines

Greetings and congratulations to the great men and women of Puyat Steel Corporation on your 50th founding anniversary. Fifty years is a long time, and a 50th anniversary is a remarkable achievement in any business.

Puyat Steel Corporation can pride itself on having served the needs and requirements of the built environments, including Filipino architects. We at the United Architects of the Philippines are proud of our long-standing relationship with Puyat Steel Corporation and we are confident that the mutually beneficial cooperation between the UAP and Puyat Steel Corporation will be developing further for the welfare of the empowered Filipino architects. Again, congratulations to Puyat Steel Corporation and best wishes for your continued success!

ARCHT. EDRIC MARCO C. FLORENTINO, FUAP
National President
United Architects of the Philippines

On behalf of the Philippine Institute of Architects I would like to extend our warmest greetings & congratulate Puyat Steel Corporation on their 50th Anniversary.

We are indeed very much privileged & honored to be one of their partners in nation building & professional development in the field of architecture.

ANGELITO R. ANTONIO, FPIA
National President
Philippine Institute of Architects

Let me extend my warmest greetings to the officers and employees who form part of the Puyat Steel Corporation on your celebration of the 50th founding anniversary.

Throughout the years, your company, together with the Philippine Constructors Association (PCA), Inc. aimed at assuring the development and growth of the construction industry.

On behalf of the Philippine Constructors Association (PCA), Inc., may we, hand in hand continuously strive for excellence and success to take part in uplifting the economic well being of the country.

Congratulations on your 50th anniversary!

JORGE A. CONSUNJI
President
Philippine Constructors Association (PCA), Inc.

It is with great pleasure that I convey the warmest felicitations of the officers and directors of The Philippine Society of Ventilating, Air Conditioning and Refrigerating Engineers, Inc. (PSVARE) to Puyat Steel Corporation on the celebration of its 50th Founding Anniversary on September 20, 2006.

Indeed, Puyat Steel Corporation has been a partner and supporter of the Society over the years. It is well known that the company produced quality products needed by industries, and in particular materials used in the air-conditioning industry. This in keeping with its commitment towards product and service excellence.

With every good wish for a continued growth and success. Congratulations.

DAVID B. FARALA
President
Philippine Society of Ventilating, Airconditioning and Refrigerating Engineers

the MAN behind the DREAM

By Nimia S. Gamo. Based on "The Life and Career of Don Gonzalo Puyat" and other articles in *The Manila Chronicle Magazine*, 31 May 1967.

Don Gonzalo was a man blessed with a keen sense of business and a strong drive for excellence. His amazing success in life is also largely due to many virtues rarely found in the same individual: perseverance, paternalism, philanthropy, and patriotism.

Persevering. Throughout his life, Gonzalo Puyat believed that success is best achieved through honest hard work. His was not an overnight success story but a slow rise to economic gain through industry, thrift, perseverance and honesty. In 1906, he was earning only P18 a month as a laborer and had a wife and two children to support. But by sheer persistence and industry, he was able to build an industrial empire covering a broad range of products and services. During his productive years, he was among the first to arrive—as early as five in the morning—and the last to leave the office.

Paternalistic. To his workers who had known him for years, Don Gonzalo was not the typical employer. He was like a father and a man worth emulating. He would preach to his employees for their own good, to guide them rather than to demonstrate that he is superior. One of his advice was "When you work, work fast so that you could finish early." Indeed, he could be very strict, expecting his men to be at work by 6:30 in the morning. But during the rest period, Don Gonzalo would play billiards or table tennis with his people. No man is too low for him. His paternalistic nature extended to other family members of his employees. He would enjoin them to work for his companies as well.

Philanthropic. Don Gonzalo was very compassionate and charitable. But he did not boast about his acts of generosity. His own children discovered only in his senior years that he secretly gave financial assistance to many poor but deserving students. Beneficiaries were mostly those with much potential in the arts and technology. A true philanthropist, Gonzalo Puyat believed that one should help others not because he has the means but because he simply must. In fact, he was giving to charity long before he could afford it. Proof that benevolence ran through his veins. Charity is best remembered not by the amount of the donation but for the spirit that went with it. That spirit had been a life-long commitment as far as Gonzalo Puyat was concerned.

Patriotic. Though fiercely business-minded, Don Gonzalo never lost sight of his being a Filipino. His patriotism and love of country and countrymen influenced many of his decisions. He insisted that all Puyat products be reasonably priced to be within the reach of many Filipino consumers. In Puyat factories, local raw materials are used as much as possible to lessen dependence on foreign goods. He paved the way for a system of apprenticeship in Philippine industries to produce more skilled workers.

It has been said that love is the greatest virtue of all. The 4 P's of Don Gonzalo Puyat can be summarized into LOVE: for work, for employees, for the needy and for country. These are the same values that the Puyat Steel Corporation has lived by through its 50 years of existence. The same values that has helped the company endure and succeed through all these years.

Pioneer in galvanizing
Pioneer in modern technology

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DN EN ISO 9001 : 2000
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Passion for Excellence

PUYAT STEEL

50 Years

an enduring commitment

PUYAT STEEL CORPORATION

Paving the way for the future

The year 2006 marks an important milestone for Puyat Steel Corporation, as the company celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Pioneer

Established in 1956, Puyat Steel Corporation is the pioneer in the galvanized iron steel (GI) manufacturing industry in the Philippines. Reliving its pioneering spirit and responding to government's call to be globally competitive, Puyat Steel Corporation, built the Philippines first state-of-the-art Non-Oxidizing Furnace (NOF) galvanizing plant in October 1998. Located in a sprawling 29-hectare industrial complex in Rosario, Batangas, the plant produces superior galvanized products applicable for industrial applications in addition to higher quality roofing materials. Because of this superior quality Puyat Steel is able to give ten (10) year warranty on its products.

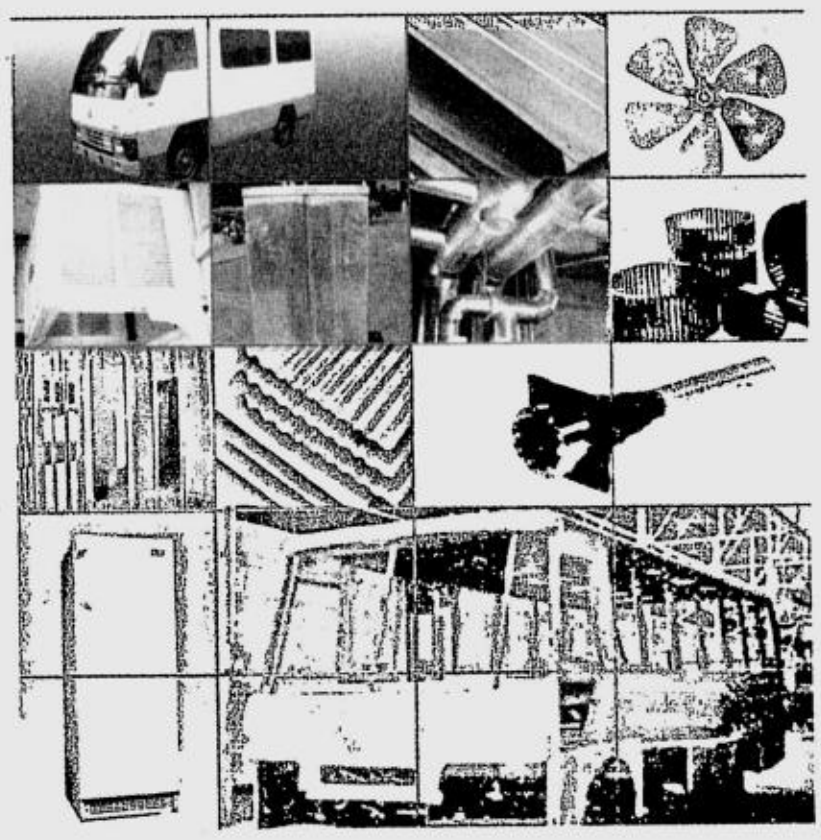
The plant is the only ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 14001:2004 certified NOF galvanizing plant in the country producing world class coated steel products that meet ISO standards.

World Class Technology

The NOF technology of Puyat Steel's Batangas plant puts the company at the forefront of the galvanizing technology as it extended applications of galvanized products. While people think that galvanized products are only for roofing, bringing in the NOF technology has brought galvanizing other applications supplying the requirements of local downstream sectors particularly the metal working industries and appliance manufacturers.

Environmentally Responsible

Puyat Steel-Batangas Plant does not emit any pollutant and is therefore environment-friendly as confirmed by its ISO 14001:2004, Environmental Management System certification.



Meeting the Needs of the Market

Aside from being the best quality roofing materials, GI and Galfan products produced under this technology meet severe bending tests which are not found in other products, thereby, providing a vital link in the supply chain of construction and industrial requirements resulting in self-sufficiency and less dependence on imports for domestic manufacturers.

The production of Galfan has allowed Puyat Steel to diversify its market to cover industrial applications. Apo Galfan has found wide acceptance as material for AUVs/ bus bodies, water tanks, post tension ducts, conventional and spiral air-con ducting, window (WRAC) and package type aircons, refrigerators, steel decking, studs and frames, computer casing, electrical panel casing and other extreme and complicated applications.

All Puyat Steel products are manufactured in an ISO certified plant according to international standards enabling the company to access exports to the United States, Saipan, Guam, China and Ghana.

APO Galfan

The Brand Apo Galfan

The most trusted name in construction materials

Puyat Steel Corporation owns the number one and most trusted brand in the market – APO. The brand name "APO" is named after the highest mountain in the Philippines, an appropriate symbol of top quality. Only the APO brand offers a written ten (10) year warranty on its products and two (2) year warranty on its installation workmanship. Apo brand has become the product of choice as well as top-of-mind brand recall among specifiers and consumers. It is acknowledged as the brand with the highest quality.

Puyat Steel is the exclusive licensee in the Philippines of Galfan, a superior alloy in galvanizing which provides unequalled quality in terms of excellent corrosion resistance, superior formability, drawability, excellent paintability and superior weldability.

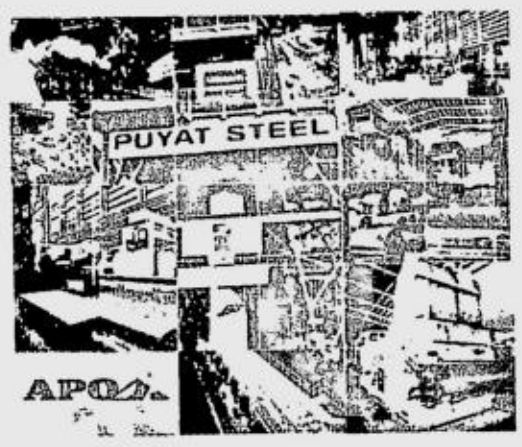
a **heart** for **Filipinos' Progress**

People. Technology. Innovation.
Protection of the environment.
And social responsibility. Combining
the best to bring out
the best in Filipinos.

participating in
Philippine economic progress

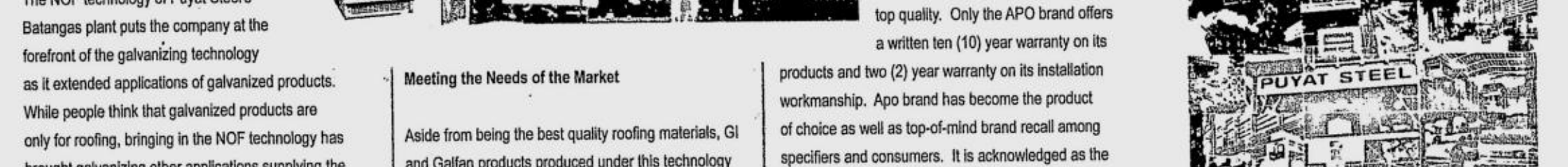
in pursuit of global best

Partnering with the worldwide best to deliver the Philippine's best. The first ISO-Certified Continuous Galvanizing Line – Non-Oxidizing Furnace (CGL-NOF) in the country. Puyat Steel uses European technology in its manufacturing facilities. Fifty years of existence has not extinguished the pioneering and innovative spirit of the company and the men and women behind it. This same spirit will continue to propel Puyat Steel Corporation, and the rest of the country, into further growth and expansion.



APO Galfan

PROVIDING CUSTOMERS VALUE FOR THEIR MONEY



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Cockerill Mechanical Industries

United Coil Coating Corporation
Alphawood Compound, Bo. Sto.Tomas, Biñan Laguna
Tel.: 049-8397091

PROSIL
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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
OHSUNG TRAVEL AND TOURS AGENCY, INC. Unit 13-8137 Plaza J. Escriva Drive Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Misook Hwang	Consultant
DA BEACONZ CORP. #33 Branches, Sangandaan, D2, Quezon City	Gin Seong Jeong	General Manager
PHILIP MORRIS PHILIPPINES MANUFACTURING CORP. 27/F, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wendy Siu Wai Tang	Executive Manager - Factory Finance
C&C SHOES AND GARMENTS GENERAL MERCHANDISE C-1 Baclaran Terminal Plaza Taft Avenue, Pasay City	Jiafang Wang	General Manager
GLAXOSMITHKLINE PHILIPPINES, INC. 2266 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Jude Albert Braganza	Finance Director
SHINNITTETSU PHILIPPINE BRANCH Unit 1504 Herrera Tower Rufino St. cor. Valero St., Salcedo Vill. Makati City	Hideki Matsumoto	Fabrication Manager
WINS INTERNATIONAL CO., LTD. Unit 303 One Corporate Plaza, 845 Arnaiz Ave., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Hirotaka Kataoka	Japanese Assistant for Production
LABOR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 1159 Natividad Lopez St., Ermita, Manila	Gasser Mohamed Mohamed Nagy	Interviewer/ Consultant
LABOR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 1159 Natividad Lopez St., Ermita, Manila	Touba Saad Sadek Abouhalf	Interviewer/ Consultant
LABOR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 1159 Natividad Lopez St., Ermita, Manila	Hussein Saad Abdel Salam Mohamed	Interviewer/ Consultant
IBM DAKSH BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC. 30/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Bimal Kant Chowdhury	IT Senior Manager
TOON CITY ANIMATION, INC. 2/F FMF Business Center, 126 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Miles Baden Jenkinson	Inbetween Supervisor

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 20, 2006)

TARLAC II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

INVITATION TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the supply and delivery of material requirements needed for the massive relocation of KWH Meters on Pole Clustering in La Paz District, stated below are hereby invited to pre-qualify with Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II). Only pre-qualified applicants shall be invited to participate in the bidding.

PACKAGE 1.
1. Insulator, Service Spool, 11/16 Groove – 300 pcs
2. Connector, Compression, #YHO1, Burndy – 2,100 pcs
3. Connector, Compression, #6, YPC2A8U, Burndy – 25,200 pcs
4. Nipple, HDG, 1" diameter – 2,800 pcs
5. Socket Base, 1" Hubs, C1-100, 4 Jaws, 2 Wire Converted Bolted Type (Jumper Wire Requirement: (#6, Cu, Str.) – 7,000 pcs
6. Cap, Entrance, 1" dia., Nichi, (RSC Type) – 3,360 pcs
7. Clamp, Malleable, 1" diameter ARC-CO, US – 2,800 pcs
8. Conduit, Rigid Steel, 1" dia x 10', Nichi – 3,360 pcs
9. Plug, G.I., 1" diameter – 3,300 pcs
10. Tape, Electrical, 16 m, Black, Japan – 1,700 pcs
11. Terminal Lug, Small (see sample) – 4,500 pcs
12. Tox w/screw, 1-1/2" – 2,800 pcs
13. Band-it stainless Steel, 1/2", (30.48 m/box) – 200 boxes
14. Band-it Buckle, 1/2", Cat. C254 – 5,000 pcs

PACKAGE 2.
1. Meter, KWH, 1-Ph, 3W, Class 100, Fm-1S, 60 Hz, 155S/ 170S.US Surplus in good Condition, Contained in a Box with Protected Tray Inside, Tested, Calibrated and Sealed by ERC (Supported with the ERC Test Certificate) – 4,500 units
2. Meter, Electronic, 1-Ph, 3W, Class 200, Fm-2S, 60 Hz, General Electric, I-210, Brand New, Calibrated and Sealed by ERC Contained in a Box w/ protected tray paired with designed Socket base. – 1,500 sets

PACKAGE 3.
1. Conductor, THHN, Copper, Stranded, 8.0 mm² Preferred Brand: Phelps Dodge, Columbia, Duraflex in four Color: Blue – 16,800 mts
2. Same with Package 3 Item No. 1 except Green – 10,500 mts
3. Same with Package 3 Item No. 1 except Red – 10,500 mts
4. Same with Package 3 Item No. 1 except Yellow – 4,200 mts
5. Same with Package 3 Item No. 1 except 14.0 mm², Black – 16,800 mts
6. Same with Package 3 Item No. 1 except 5.5 mm², Black – 10,500 mts

PACKAGE 4.
1. Seal, Anchor Plastic, Transparent, AWN #012N16ST3PC Polycarbonate w/ 6" Three Strand Stainless Steel Wire and High Relief Random Unduplicated Numbering, with Tarelco II Lettering Molded w/ High Relief, Serialized Starting No. 146001, White. – 20,000 pcs
2. Same with Package 4 Item No. 1 except beginning serialized Starting No. 0001, Yellow. – 30,000 pcs

Prequalification documents shall be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by the Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee through its Chairman, MR. PABLITO D. MAGCALAS, at TARELCO II Main Office Building located at San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac, Philippines. Bid documents are available beginning September 29, 2006.

Submission of Prequalification Documents – **September 29 – October 05, 2006**
Date and Time of Prebid Conference – **October 06, 2006 at 1:30 PM**

Date and Time of Bidding shall be announced during the Prebid Conference.

Accredited suppliers previously prequalified need only to update their files with TARELCO II.

A Bid Bond of at least 2.5% of Total Bid Price is required, either in form of Cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check or Surety Bond.

TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all applications to pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, and waive any defect therein. TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. Send all communications to the PBAC Secretariat at the address mentioned above or at Telephone No. (45) 923-0460 or Fax Nos. (045) 923-0471 & 609-0224.

(Sgd.) **PABLITO D. MAGCALAS**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 20 & 24, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PROCUREMENT OF 12 UNITS LAPTOP/NOTEBOOK FOR THE USE OF LTO CENTRAL OFFICE

The Land Transportation Office, through Fund 151 (MVUC) intends to apply the sum of Nine Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (P960,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of payment for the procurement of 12 units Laptop/Notebook for the use of LTO Central Office. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the said items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00, in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 6, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City

Bids and Eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 18, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One Percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half Percent (1½%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2½%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred Percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on October 18, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan - Chairman, BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9219077 - Telefax

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN**
BAC - Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 20, 2006)

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Your gateway to enlightenment
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In Chinese
Every Friday at 7:30 pm
Starting Sept. 22, 2006

In English
Every Saturday at 9:30 am
Starting Sept. 23, 2006

At
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716 Jose Abad Santos, Little Baguio,
San Juan, MM, Phils.
Call tel. nos: 723-6132 or 726-0600 for reservation

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/ Brief Description	One (1) lot - Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of five (5) units WALK-THROUGH METAL DETECTOR, per BSP's scope of work and technical specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	P4,125,000.00
Completion Period	Within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of the approved Contract.

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	13 to 28 September 2006 (up to 2:00 PM only)
2. Pre-Bid Conference	29 September 2006, 10:30 AM
3. Opening of Bids	17 October 2006, 2:00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed
5. Post-qualification	) periods allowed in the Implementing Rules &
6. Notice of Award	) Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated) 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,100.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 20, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Office of the Secretary
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
2/F Building 1, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, 1003 Manila
Trunk Line 743-83-01 local 1625, 1626 Telefax 741-97-75
URL: http://www.doh.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF GAS CHROMATOGRAPH MASS SPECTROMETER
IAEB No-2006-10-27-25

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the General Appropriations Act 2006 intends to apply the sum of Fifteen Million Philippine Pesos (PhP 15,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The DOH now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectromter. Delivery of the GOODS is required by forty five (45) calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division (PD) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Four Thousand Philippine Pesos (Php4,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 13, 2006, 1:30 p.m. at the address given below.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m., 27 October 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount in Pesos. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of the Approved Budget for the Contract for the *Items* for which Bid is Submitted
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)

8. Bid opening shall be on 27 October 2006, 10:00 a.m., at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, Building 6
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz
Manila
Facsimile number: 7419775
Trunkline number: 743-8301 local 1625 and 1626

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health and
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI – Sept. 20 & 27, 2006)

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Merrit Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO, Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 Fax No. 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Rental Engagement of Six (6) Units Engine Driven Pumps with 800 GPM / 800 FT TDH Capacity Including Operators and Maintenance Crew (EDC 06-099)

The Approved Budget is **P8,460,000.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is **ninety (90) operating days**.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid documents may be secured from either of the following:

1) PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila (c/o D.M.Z. Lejano) or
2) PNOC-EDC LGPF Admin. (c/o A. L. Anoba)

starting **September 20, 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **September 29, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at PNOC-EDC BAC Room, Building V, 1st Floor, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Application for Eligibility and Sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st floor Bldg. 5, PNOC-EDC, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. of October 13, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI–Sept. 20, 2006)

Notice to the Public

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(PDI–Sept. 20, 2006)

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Celeron 500 Mhz 128 MB 10 Gb Hdd P 2,490
15inch LCD Monitor P 7,200

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JUDE A. LAGAHIT

Notice is hereby given to the public that **Mr. JUDE A. LAGAHIT**, Operations Officer, of **CARGO BAYAN INCORPORATED** (the "Company") whose photograph appears above is no longer connected with the Company effective June 23, 2006.

Any transactions and dealings entered into by said individual for and on behalf of the Company on or after the aforementioned effectivity date will not be honored and accepted by the Company.

The Management
CARGO BAYAN INCORPORATED

(PDI - Sept. 20, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5262

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

	Approved Budget
High Temperature Calcite Inhibition Chemicals	
under *FGM 60315*	*PHP 5,778,000.00*
under *FGM 60316*	*PHP 20,720,000.00*
LOT	*PHP 26,498,000.00*

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** starting **September 20, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **September 26, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time)** of **October 12, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI-Sept. 20 & 27, 2006)

Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

W. Vinzons St., Albay District, Legazpi City Telephone Nos. 481-1584, 481-5555, 487-4625 481-5021, 485-2348 • Fax: 820-2668

INVITATION TO BID

The ALECO, INC. invites interested contractors and suppliers to submit prequalification documents, and to bid for the supply of the following materials and equipment, on a consignment basis.

SCHEDULE I
KILOWATT HOUR METERS Brand New / 220 Volts / Single Phase, Electronic

			BRAND
a.	Class 10(60)	10,000 pcs.	Americo
B.	Class 100 with meter base	5,000 pcs.	GTC

SCHEDULE II
DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS
13.2 (7620 / 13200 y) 120/240 V Sec.
Pole type OISC Brand New DB

			BRAND
a.	15 KVA	15 sets	Philec / Hanyang / Wagner
b.	25 KVA	30 sets	Philec / Hanyang / Wagner
c.	37.5 KVA	30 sets	Philec / Hanyang / Wagner
d.	50 KVA	15 sets	Philec / Hanyang / Wagner
e.	75 KVA	6 sets	Philec / Hanyang / Wagner
f.	100 KVA	3 sets	Philec / Hanyang / Wagner

SCHEDULE III
WIRES

Duplex Wire #6	50,000 meters
Duplex Wire #2	50,000 meters
ACSR Bare Wire #2	50,000 meters
ACSR Bare Wire #2/0	50,000 meters
Insulated Copper Wire #2/0	5,000 meters
Bare Wire Copper #4	5,000 meters
Bare Wire #336.4 MCM Linnet	1,500 meters

SCHEDULE IV
CURRENT TRANSFORMERS (69 kV) 6 pieces
Outdoor Type
Dual Ratio - 400 / 300:5
POTENTIAL TRANSFORMERS (69 kV) 6 pieces
Outdoor Type
Ratio - 350:1 Amp
LIGHTNING ARRESTERS (75 kV) 6 pieces
10 Ka
With strike counter

Pre-qualification documents shall be received by ALECO on or before September 22, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. A *Pre-Bid Conference* will be held on September 26, 2006 at the ALECO Main Office at 2:00 p.m. *Submission/Opening of Bids* shall be on *October 11, 2006* at 2:00 p.m. at ALECO Boardroom.

Eligibility and *bidding documents* may be secured from the ALECO office starting September 25, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00.

Only pre-qualified bidder shall be allowed to submit proposals. ALECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to ALECO.

(Sgd.) **ALEXIS C. CAMU**
PBAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ALEX M. REALOZA**
Officer-In-Charge

(PDI - Sept. 17 & 20, 2006)

OBITUARIES

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Tim 4:7

The Missionary Society of Saint Columban

mourns the death of

FR. JOHN MEANEY

who died peacefully at St. Columban's, Manila on 18th September at the age of 85.

Fr. John Meany was ordained in 1946 in Ireland. He arrived in the Philippines in January 1948 and was assigned to the newly opened parish of Baroy, Lanao del Norte where he spent the next 21 years. There he built a church and a high school. Over the next 35 years he served in the parishes of Ozamiz, Catarman, Gingoog, Mambajao, Kinoguitan, Balingoan, Agusan, Sagay, San Agustin, Marihatag, Alubijid and Lianga.

Up to a few months ago Fr. John was a popular confessor in St. Augustine's Cathedral, Cagayan de Oro. He had a special love for the poor and he himself lived a very simple life.

The funeral Mass will be held in St. Augustine's Cathedral, Cagayan de Oro City on Friday, 22nd September at 9:00 A.M. The burial will take place immediately after the Mass at the Columban plot at Bulua, Cagayan de Oro.

May he rest in peace

OBITUARIES

Death Notices

HERMELINA D. SEVILLA
(Sept. 13, 1931- Sept. 15, 2006)

Her body lies in state at Floresco Funeral Homes, General Luna St., Malabon City.

Interment to be announced.

VINCE ALEXANDER D. ZAÑO
Peacefully joined the Lord on September 16, 2006.

His remains lie in state at the Bahay Recoleto, Our Lady of Consolation Parish Church, Mira Nila, Tandang Sora, Quezon City and will be brought to the Ateneo de Manila High School Chapel on September 21, 2006, Thursday, for the 8:00 a.m. Memorial Mass.

Interment follows at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

GREGORIO SALIVIO ALBAO, SR.
Joined his Lord and Savior on September 13, 2006

His body lies in state at #35 Magallanes St., San Miguel, Magarao, Camarines Sur.

Interment will be on September 23, 2006 at Eternal Gardens, Balatas Road, Naga City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral, Naga City.

In Loving Memory

Two years ago, September 20, 2004, a loving devoted husband, son, father and grandfather

ROY D. PAPA

Left this world to join our Creator in His Heavenly Kingdom

His wife: **Rosie**, mother: **Nene**, and children: **Roselle & Yuri, Roby, Ryan & Anne, Ron,** brothers and sisters and in-laws request relatives and friends to remember him in prayers on this day. "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him."

Holy Masses will be offered today, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2006.

Immaculate Conception Parish, Malabon City	6:00 a.m.
Mary the Queen, Madison St., Greenhills	7:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	7:15 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati City	6:15 a.m.
Mount Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Q.C.	7:00 a.m.
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Retiro, Q.C.	7:30 a.m.
Sto Domingo Church, Q.C.	7:00 a.m.
Nuestra Senora de Gracia Parish, Makati	7:00 a.m.
Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Makati	6:00 p.m.
National Shrine of Sacred Heart, San Antonio Vil. Makati	7:00 a.m.
Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Anne Taguig, Manila	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Pasay City	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate, Manila	6:00 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City	7:00 a.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Makati City	6:30 a.m.
St. Francis Church, Mandaluyong	7:00 a.m.
Sta. Ann Parish, Manila	6:30 a.m.
Christ the King Parish, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
Christ the King Church Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA	8:30 a.m.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side; your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

Our Dearly Beloved

CECILIA ALMENDRALA-CAMBA

(April 4, 1958 – September 16, 2006)

of Pasig City and Calamba, Laguna

- *Assistant Secretary* – Office of the President (UAR-PMO/ODA Office / Appointments Office)
- *Former Director* – OOP, Department of Trade & Industry
- *Former Director* – DTI Rizal Provincial Office

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 16, 2006 at the age of 48.

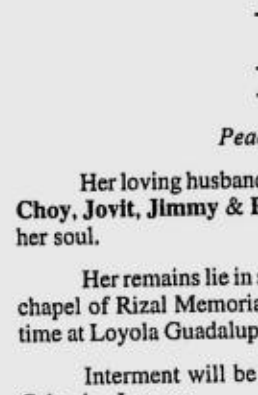
Her loving husband **Vince**; children **VJ, Alvin & JR**; parents **Juanito & Consuelo Almendrala**; brothers **Choy, Jovit, Jimmy & Robert**; relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Premiere 2 Chapel, Loyola Guadalupe, Makati City & will be transferred to the chapel of Rizal Memorial Park, Calamba, Laguna on Thursday, September 21, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. (departure time at Loyola Guadalupe).

Interment will be on Friday, September 22, 2006 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Rizal Memorial Park, Calamba, Laguna.

The Most Rev. Francisco C. San Diego D.D., the Clergy, Religious & Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Pasig, the Brothers, Sisters, Nephews, Nieces & the Relatives wish to announce with deep sorrow the death of

Rev. Fr. Rosalio "Ross" C. Olaybal, J.C.L.



Parish Priest of Sta. Lucia Parish, Manggahan, Pasig City
Born: September 4, 1936 *Ordained Priest:* March 30, 1963

Fr. Ross died in the grace of the Lord on September 17, 2006. His remains lie in state at Sta. Lucia Parish Church.
Interment will be on September 22, 2006 after the 8:00am concelebrated mass to be presided by the Bishop.
Please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

MOTORING

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Isuzu posts strong truck sales

THE F-SERIES: reliable and powerful

AVAILABLE in various configurations, the N-Series is perhaps one of the most versatile light-duty trucks in the market today.

By Charles E. Buban

DIESEL VEHICLE and engine expert Isuzu Philippines Corp. has a firm grip on the country's light- and medium-duty truck market as revealed by a recent data provided by the Truck Manufacturers Association of the Philippines.

TMA found that in its year-to-date sales figures ending July, Isuzu's F-Series medium-duty trucks accounted for 93.9 percent of all sales. The F-Series also dominated the July sales, accounting for all the 18 units sold during that month.

The same year-to-date sales data showed Isuzu's N-Series light-duty trucks accounting for 58.5 percent of all sales with 459 units sold. During the July cut-off month, IPC was able to sell 100 units, accounting for 63.7 percent of all sales made that month.

Strong performance

"We are very pleased with our strong performance despite the emerging competition," said IPC president Yoshifumi Komura. "The Philippines is a very important market for Isuzu considering that it was just one of 22 countries in the world in which Isuzu vehicles dominated their respective categories last year."

Komura explained that such market faith might be due to Isuzu's name being intrinsically linked to diesel engine technology considering that the company has developed an enviable reputation for the performance and exceptional economy of its advanced diesel engines.

"These recent sales achievements are the best endorsement our Isuzu trucks can get. It only shows which vehicles the country's entrepreneurs turn to when they need dependable workhorses for their businesses," IPC vice president for corporate business Art Balmadrid said.

According to him, IPC can be expected to continue delivering best-of-class trucks since the company will always be a vital partner in the country's drive toward economic recovery.

Now a world leader in the production of reliable medium- and light-duty trucks, Isuzu is world-renowned for its expertise in engineering—from building diesel engines to pickups to SUVs and of course trucks and buses," Balmadrid said.

Perfect partner

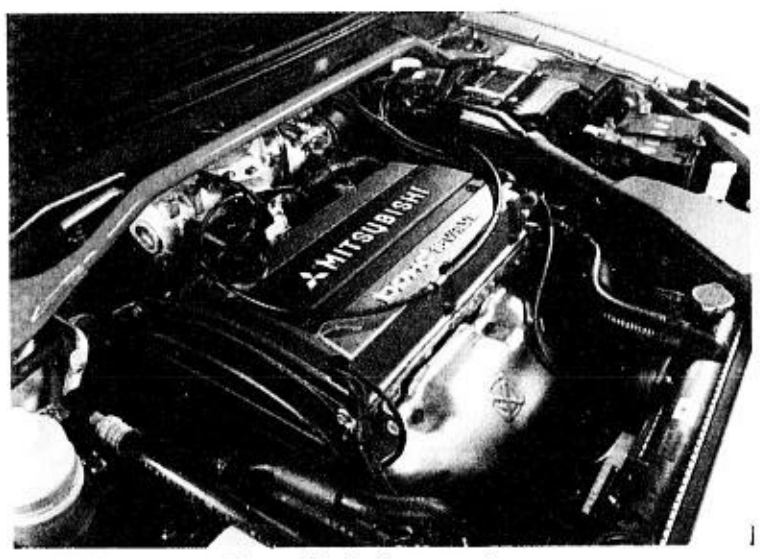
The Isuzu F Series medium-duty trucks—priced at P1.594 million and P1.747 million—feature a revised styling for easier cab access and maintenance. Powered by an 8.2-liter (available in 172 or 197 horsepower variants) engine and mated to a 6-speed transmission, the F-Series trucks are built to work hard and for longer hours.

The Isuzu N Series trucks, on the other hand, have been the best-selling light-duty truck in the industry worldwide. Available in several engine, wheel and body configurations, the N-Series (priced from P677,000 to P1.024 million) is perfect for those starting up a business.

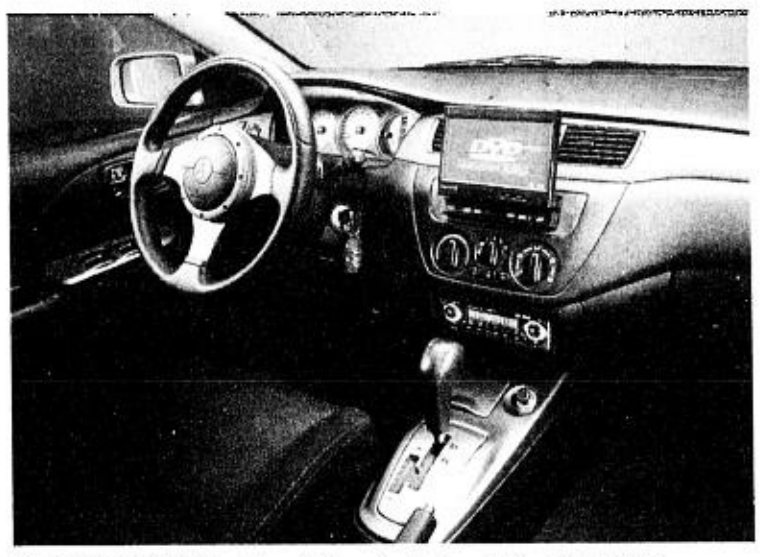
"Both the F-Series and the N-Series are known not only for their top-performing diesel engines, but also for their durability, reliability and being emission-standard compliant to the Philippine Clean Air Act," explained Balmadrid.

He added that Isuzu has been a pioneer in the manufacture of vehicles and engines for industrial and commercial use since its first truck was introduced in 1918.

"For over 88 years Isuzu has devoted a major portion of its research and development resources to refining diesel engine technology. This time around, Isuzu is committed to tackle global environmental pollution as its most critical management issue so expect the company to put its efforts into the development of much cleaner diesel engines in the coming years," Balmadrid said.



POWER is expected from this classic powerplant.



GT DASHBOARD is all evolution, but where's the stick shift?

Is Lancer 2.0 GT part of the evolutionary process?

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

EXCITEMENT IS SOMETHING ADMITTEDLY lacking in the long market presence of the Mitsubishi Lancer. In fact, the only times when the words "exciting" and "Lancer" come together, one can be sure that the word "Evolution" is in the very same sentence.

This being the painful case, some brave soul at Mitsubishi decided to go out on a limb and proposed an ultimately risky but necessary development for a platform that's been around for quite a while. If the car's engine is its thumping heart, then the new Lancer GT just got a transplant—one that is aimed at extending this product's life just a little bit longer. There has also been some updating of bits and pieces here and there; changes that can't hurt either, right?

Brilliant plan on paper

On paper, the plan sounds brilliant. Take the tried and true 2.0-liter 4G63 similar to what came with the outstanding Galant Gti; make it emission compliant and shoehorn said engine into the Lancer front end. Specify an interior that'll convince all but the truest nit-picker that you are in an Evolution-themed cockpit. Throw in a factory-tailored, visually attractive and aurally engaging Ralliart exhaust system. Instant driver's car guaranteed, right? Well, things are not that simple.

Let me expound and shoot off some ideas first. While the engine is apparently culled from a true classic, the word "classic" in itself connotes a little age. There is at least decent torque though and this logically comes from the extra displacement. Mitsubishi also claims to understate its horsepower claims, apparently unlike other manufacturers. The Galant Gti was a fast car, wasn't it? To this day, compared with cars of the post-millennium generation, a 15-year-old, properly maintained Gti can still hold its own in a dogfight.

Why all the fuss and explanation so soon in this review? It's just that there is no surge of acceleration that comes with liberal use of the gas pedal—somewhat expected from such a vehicle thus endowed.

No. 1 culprit

It's not really the engine's fault, though—or at least I'd like to think that. Fine, power output and pull have been sacrificed for the sake of carbon emissions but this 2.0-liter, inline

IS LANCER/ B-13

STRIKING stance from a hard hitter?

MotorScope

2nd World of Toyota Motorshow

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORP. WILL HOLD AN EXCLUSIVE motor show from Sept. 22 to 28 at the Le Pavilion in Pasay City. Dubbed "The 2nd World of Toyota Motor Show," the event will showcase Toyota's complete model lineup and its latest technological advancements highlighted by the display of the I-unit concept vehicle and the second-generation Prius Hybrid Car flown directly from Japan.

The motor show will also serve as the public debut of the newest vehicles in its product lineup—the all-new Camry, Hiace Super Grandia, Innova High-end V Grade—and a sneak preview of the upcoming 7-seater Avanza. It will also conclude Toyota's September special promo by raffling off 6 brand-new Fortuners for all customer transactions made within Sept. 1-28.

Toyota will also showcase the rest of its vehicle lineup, including the limited edition sporty Vios, Altis, improved Hilux and Fortuner, as well as the Previa, Prado, RAV4, and the Avanza which will be officially introduced later this year.

To complete the motor show package, the 2nd World of Toyota will offer other attractions for the whole family—hourly raffle of premium items, free service checkup and car wash, and lots of freebies, nightly band performances by the country's most exciting bands with Side A, Brownman Revival, Sitti, Bloomfields, Sugarfree, Updharmadown and Bamboo.

The World of Toyota Motor show will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. from Sept. 22 to 28, at the Le Pavilion in Pasay City.

Audi A3 arrives in RP

THE AUDI A3, A COMPACT CAR IN THE PREMIUM SEGMENT, IS now available in the country through PGA Cars Inc., the exclusive local importer and distributor of Audi.

Audi has a range of six sporty engines, a McPherson front suspension and a four-link independent rear suspension. Among its engines is the 3.2 liter V6 which claims to run at 0 to 100 kph in 6.4 seconds and achieves a governed top speed of 250 kph.

The A3 sports the new single-frame grille which defines the latest Audi models. It is 4.15 meters in length with a wheelbase of 2.51 meters. PGA Cars showroom is on Edsa.

New generation Benz E-Class

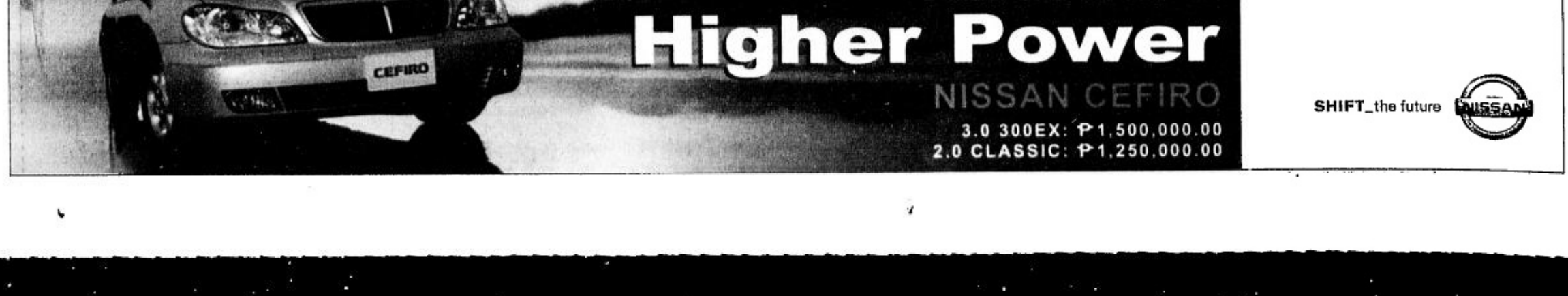
THE NEW GENERATION BENZ E-CLASS WAS LAUNCHED RECENTLY at the Mercedes-Benz Global City Showroom through CATS Motors Inc., the Philippine general distributor of Mercedes-Benz products and services.

With over 2,000 changes, the new generation E class has flashing brake lights to prevent rear-end collisions. Mercedes engineers show that the drivers' braking reaction time can be shortened on average by up to 0.2 seconds if a flashing warning light is used during emergency braking. As a result, the braking distance can be reduced by 5.50 meters at 100 kph.

Jurgen Banken, head of project New Generation E-Class, Daimler-Chrysler AG, Mercedes Car Group Development E-Class, flew from Stuttgart, Germany to introduce to the local motoring media the new features of the business saloon.

It has a direct control package for more direct steering, more precise, short throw gear shifting and new suspension tuning and the anticipatory safety system, Presafe.

It also has a new look front section with more pronounced V-shape, larger radiator grille and modified bumper trim. Since 1946, Mercedes-Benz has over 10 million E-Class owners all over the world.



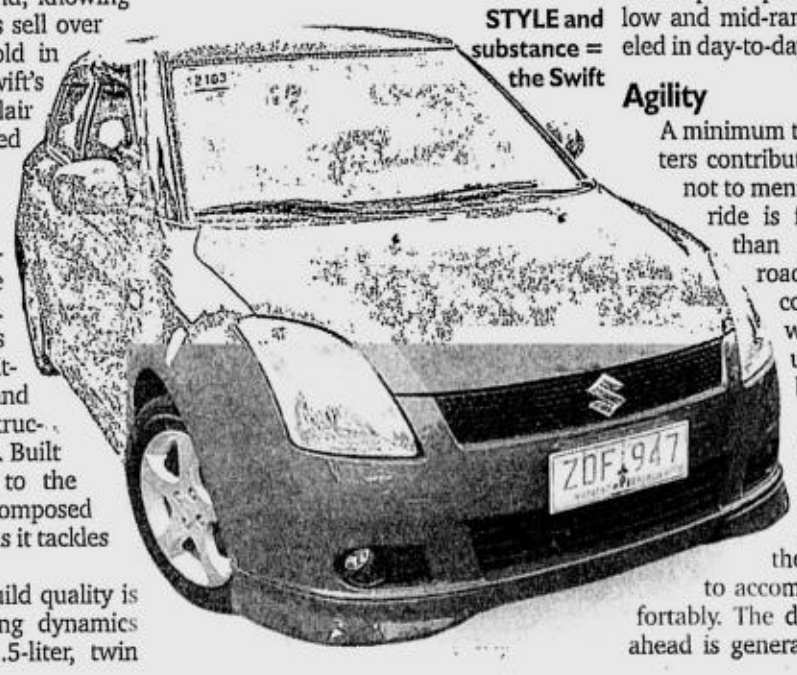
The Suzuki Swift, at long last

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHEN SUZUKI PHILIPPINES INC. launched the 2006 Swift as a CBU (completely built unit) from Japan on Aug. 12, 2005, I was among the first to request for a test-drive. But it took Suzuki one whole year and 19 days to come up with a test unit, and only after I complied with certain rigorous requirements. Borrowing a Mercedes-Benz or a BMW for a weekend test-drive has never been as tedious as this.

That said, was the year-long plus 19 days wait worth it? If the question were premised on the Swift's gorgeous looks, the answer would be yes. Suzuki Japan obviously designed the 2006 Swift with the European market in mind, knowing how subcompact hatchbacks sell over there. (The Swift is not sold in North America.) Thus the Swift's styling exudes European flair and looks as if it were designed in Turin rather than Tokyo.



STYLE and substance = the Swift

Broad appeal

Yet the Swift's broad appeal is based not on style alone, but also on substance. From any angle, the Swift's body looks solid with tight fit-and-finish. The strength and rigidity of the Swift's construction is felt when you drive it. Built sports car-low and close to the ground, the Swift stays composed and glued to the road even as it tackles corners at high speed.

In the Swift, Japanese build quality is combined with Euro driving dynamics and handling. Since its 1.5-liter, twin cam, 16-valve engine equipped with Variable Valve Timing and mated to a 4-speed gate-type automatic transmission produces a humble 110 bhp/6,000 rpm and max torque of 143 Nm/4,000 rpm, you may feel when you first grab the wheel that the solid body is too heavy for the horsepower available.

Surprise

But you are in for a pleasant surprise: as the engine wears in and loosens up, the Swift's acceleration significantly improves and this supermini begins to deliver on its fun-to-drive promise. Fuel efficiency also stabilizes at a later stage, averaging 7.9 liters per 100 kilometers in mixed city and highway driving.

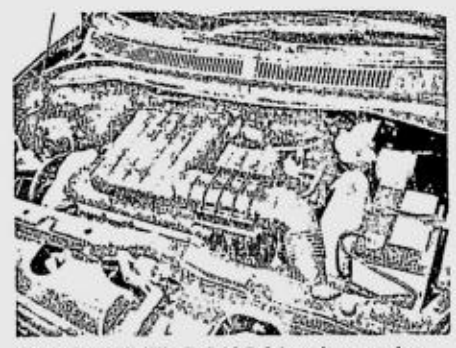
Nonetheless, engine performance remains average for its class, requiring 11.3 seconds to reach 100 kilometers per hour from zero. As Suzuki points out, the Swift's powerplant is tuned to excel at the low and mid-range speeds usually traveled in day-to-day driving.

Agility

A minimum turning radius of 4.7 meters contributes to the Swift's agility, not to mention ease in parking. The ride is firm and supple rather than cushy even on rough roads due to expertly tuned coil springs and dampers with MacPherson struts up front and torsion beam at the rear.

Inside, space is surprisingly adequate. Even six-footers would find head and leg room plentiful in front, although the back seat is not meant to accommodate tall adults comfortably. The driver's view of the road ahead is generally clear because of the Swift's wide glasshouse design. The leather-wrapped, three-spoke steering wheel has audio-control switches, Euro-style, but no reach adjustment, unfortunately.

THE SWIFT'S functional interior.
(PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA MENDOZA)



THE 1.5-LITER DOHC 16-valve engine with Variable Valve Timing

Functional

The interior has a functional rather than opulent look with a big, clear speedometer, aircon dial controls and a large, deep storage bin under the center along with three cupholders and numerous storage cubbyholes all around. The tachometer's zero mark rests at six o'clock like a sports motorbike's, there is a digital trip meter plus an information center displaying time, fuel consumption and outside temperature—things that are usually found only in bigger cars. A single in-dash CD player with six speakers is standard.

While the back seat splits 60/40 and can be tumble-folded forward to extend cargo area from 213 liters to 562 liters, doing so would cramp front seat space. As it is, the small and narrow driver's seat with height adjuster has limited fore-and-aft travel. A space-saving spare tire is stored under the floor of the cargo area.

Safety

The Swift's standard safety features include ABS with EBD, two front airbags, front seatbelt pretensioners and load limiters, rear seatbelts, collapsible steering column, side impact beams, front fog lamps, third brake lamp and remote central locking. In recent Euro NCAP crash tests, the Swift garnered four out of five stars.

The Swift's brakes are merely adequate with ventilated discs in front and drums at the rear not delivering the strongest initial bite or outright stopping power. A wimpy horn is another minus factor, ditto doors that clang shut instead of with a solid thud as expected of a car with a strong, rigid body.

Summing up, the stylish, nimble Swift is well-equipped for its P752,000 retail price and a formidable contender in the subcompact hatchback market targeting yuppies.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Crime wouldn't pay if the government ran it.

Rainy day bubbles,other car painting myths

MANY FILIPINO CAR OWNERS ARE HESItant to have their cars painted during the rainy season for fear of "bubbles" or "blisters." They think that because of the cold temperature and the moisture in the air, the paint would have bubbles and all the money and effort they spend would just be wasted.

Well, this long-believed notion is not true.

"It's a myth," says Danny Tuason, owner of The Wet Look, one of the few respected paint shops in the country today. "The weather has nothing to do with the bubbles or blisters on faulty paint jobs. That's the fault of the shop that did the painting."

The brother of racing legend Arthur Tuason pointed out that bubbles or blisters is caused by solvent popping through the layer of paint, and it is due to the failure of the painter to observe the correct flash-off time before spraying the next coat of paint. Flash-off time is the period specified by the paint manufacturer for the solvent or thinner to evaporate. If it is not observed, the solvent is trapped underneath the layer of paint, resulting in a bubble.

'Same Quality' myth

Many Filipinos also have a popular notion that all paints are created equal. Well, they are not, and despite globalization, Philippine-made paints are still below par compared to polyurethane paints from Europe, the United States and Japan.

The Wet Look, for one, uses an Italian-made polyurethane or 2K paint, and all its materials—from thinner, body filling and primer down to the hardener and topcoat—are imported. According to Tuason, this is why The Wet Look gives a two-year warranty, the longest in the industry. "All freshly painted cars have a glossy look, but only the cars painted at The Wet Look retain that gloss after two years," he said. "That's because all the materials we use are imported," he said.

'Low Cost' myth

There is another popular misconception that a good paint job can be had for P20,000 or even less. Tuason said quality has its price, and most shops that offer low prices subcontract the job on a labor-and-materials basis. The hapless subcontractor, in order to make a little profit, employs unqualified workers and uses the cheapest materials. The result is a paint job that never lasts.

The Wet Look charges a little higher than most shops (washover for bantam cars is P31,000) and Tuason often tells customers short of budget never to hurry and instead save up before having their cars repainted. "Many car owners end up paying more because they choose a P20,000 no-guarantee botched paint job. Usually they go back to us scratching their heads."

'Long Work' myth

And finally, a lot of shops tell customers that a paint job worthy of joining car shows takes months to complete. At The Wet Look, such a quality is achieved in 10 to 14 days.

"We are able to do so because we never engage in guess work. *Lahat take-one. Walang paulit-ulit. Sa ibang shops, tumatagal kasi hindi alam ang gagawin*," he said.

For more information, visit The Wet Look's website at www.thewetlook.com.ph or call (02) 815-4205 or (02) 888-4342.

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Is Lancer 2.0 GT . . .

From page B12

four lacks convincing punch. My No. 1 culprit is the automatic transmission, probably geared for smoothness and highway cruising.

Whatever advantages though that this engine and transmission combination brings to market, someone will have to convince me of benefit, honestly. To echo the sentiments of other people who've tested this Lancer, "Where's the 5-speed manual?" The car needs a well-spaced set of gears, a clutch pedal and five on the floor. Are these things really too much to ask for?

Saving graces are what this car needs then and, by the benevolence of some infinitesimally kind higher being, this car has a few. Thank heavens for small mercies.

Road holding in factory trim is better than some newer, more sporting Japanese two-liter compacts out there. It'll round a bend faster, hold a line better but the trouble is the Lancer will have to get to that corner first, ahead of whatever it is trying to outrun. As with all cars that are singularly blessed with handling, once the road unwinds and opens up, raw power and good gearing win the day.

Even this accolade has to be put into perspective. Yes, the Lancer does turn better than the heavier, softer sprung competition in the new 2.0-liter compact segment. No, this car is by no means a corner-carving classic in the making. Imagine what that says about the other cars currently in the segment?

Well-executed, themed interior

Mention must be made of the well-executed, themed interior with the steering wheel and styled sport seats really helping sell the idea that this is an Evo-related product, in some small way. The leather and dull aluminum treatment on the steering wheel is as close as it gets to the actual unit found in its fire-breathing, four-wheel-drive brethren. The seating mimics the look and flavor of what comes original with the Evolution but are wider, more relaxed. Nothing beats the cockpit of the real deal though when it comes to playing out one's sideways, Rally Monte Carlo fantasies.

Will the Lancer 2.0 GT's charge into the market turn the tide in Mitsubishi's favor? This move to a two-liter engine is admittedly bold but with newer, more stirring alternatives from the competition, this current Lancer will have a hard time taking a firm, conspicuous foothold in the market. With changes geared more toward viability than outright evolution, what can one expect?

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LIFESTYLE

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Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

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THE 2BU! CLICK AWARDS

They click!

You spoke, we listened. Here are the winners of the 2bU! Click Awards, and the readers who will bring home hot prizes

By Pam Pastor

LAST MONTH, WE asked you to tell us who you think is clicking—which boy, girl, band, gadget and organization is rocking your world.

And for weeks, you did just that. The 2bU! office was flooded with nominations from all corners of the Philippines. And why not? We were not only giving you the chance to pay homage to your clickables, we also promised you great, great prizes.

We said that if your nominee won, you were entitled to win great prizes like 12 pairs of Havaianas, four pairs of Viktor Jeans, an iPod Video, a Sony PSP and a D&G Motorola V3i.

You voted, we tallied. And after several sleepless nights of counting, we finally have your winners.

Gaita, Odessa, Roxanne, Bryan and Patrick can call 8128828 for details on how to claim their prizes. Please look for Jingle Leomo of Geiser Maclang Communications. One hundred other 2bU! readers will win special I Click shirts designed by master photographer Xander Angeles. Watch out for updates on the 2bU! Click Awards Ceremony which will be held soon.

E-mail the2buclickawards@gmail.com.

Most Clickable Girl

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT it. This generation's Darna has rocked your TV sets. Nominations poured in for **Angel Locsin** as the 2bU! Awards' Most Clickable Girl.

Gaita Quimbo of the Ateneo de Manila University was one of the 2bU! readers who nominated Angel. She wrote, "She's someone who embodies the true Pinay, and despite all her achievements, she still is able to keep her feet on the ground. She may be a celebrity, but she is also a fan as well, like how she lined up with other fans to meet Sharon Cuneta in some show. She's versatile yet simple."

Because her nominee won in the Most Clickable Girl category, Gaita will bring home a dozen pairs of Havaianas.

Other clickable girls you nominated were Toni Gonzaga, Kim Chiu, KC Concepcion, Anne Curtis and Bianca Gonzales.

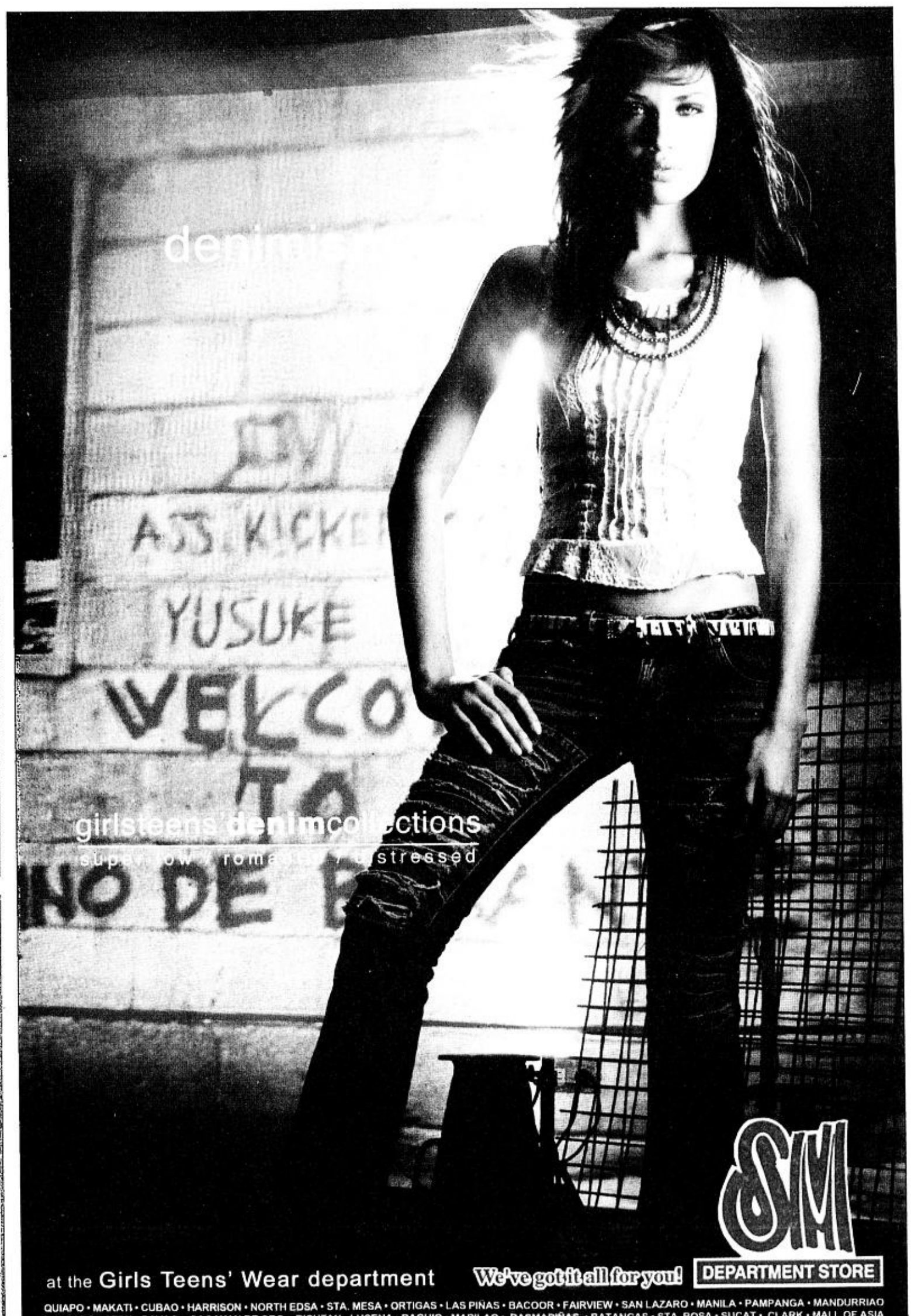
Most Clickable Guy

LIKE THE REST OF THE country, 2bU! readers couldn't stop gushing over golden boy **Sam Milby**. Nominations for him arrived left and right, and we're not surprised.

Odessa Woods of UP Diliman said, "He acts, he can sing, he's tall, dark and cute, he looks kind, and I sense that he's smart. It's in his aura. What more can you ask for?! *Kaya lang* he smiles too much, *parang walang problema, nakakaloka tuloy*."

And because Sam is 2bU!'s Most Clickable Guy, Odessa will soon have four new pairs of Viktor Jeans.

Other clickable guys you love include Bryanboy, Borgy Manotoc, Tim Yap, Richard Gutierrez and Atom Araullo.



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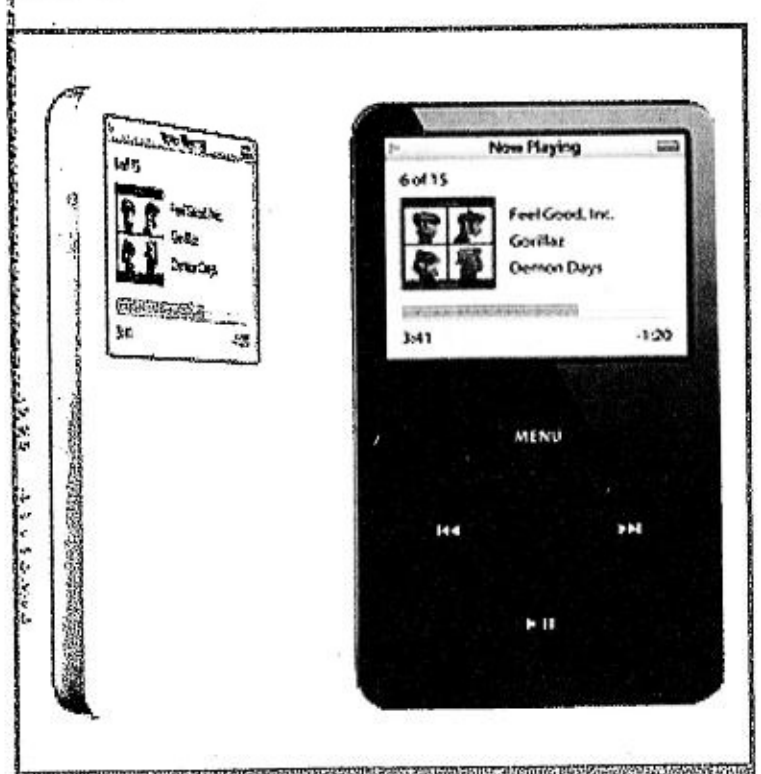


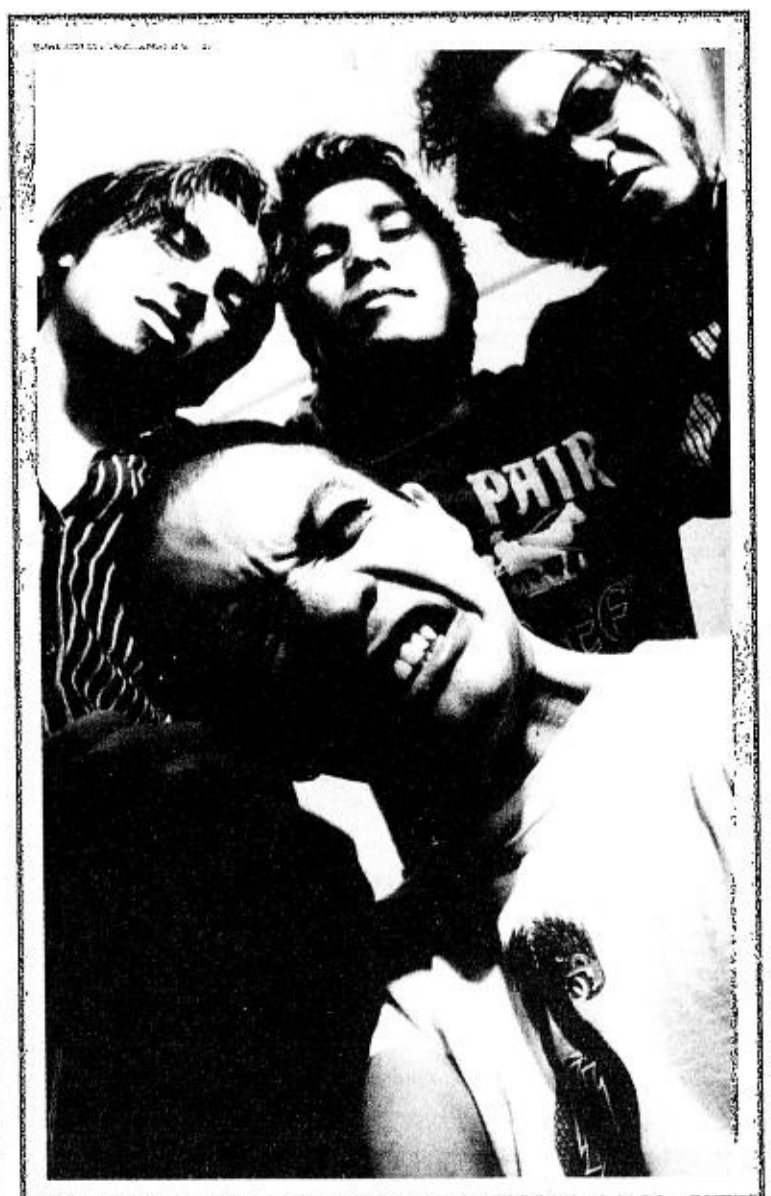
Most Clickable Gadget

STEVE JOBS WILL BE pleased. Despite the constant barrage of gadgets that hit the market week after week after week, the **iPod** remains number one on a lot of people's lists. The iPod, in all its forms, is clearly The 2bU! Awards' Most Clickable Gadget.

2bU! reader Bryan Pineda said, "It's not only a powerful and easy-to-use device, it also has a cool and sleek design that makes people go nuts about it. The click wheel is just amazing. The iPod has changed the way people manage multimedia files. It provides instant access not only to entire collections of songs and CDs but also pictures and videos, and take them everywhere."

Lucky Bryan will soon be taking another gadget everywhere—a new Sony PSP—because he nominated the winning Clickable Gadget.

Other Clickable Gadgets you nominated were the Macbook, the XBox 360, Canon digital cameras and all kinds of mobile phones from Nokia, Motorola, Samsung and Sony Ericsson.



Most Clickable Band

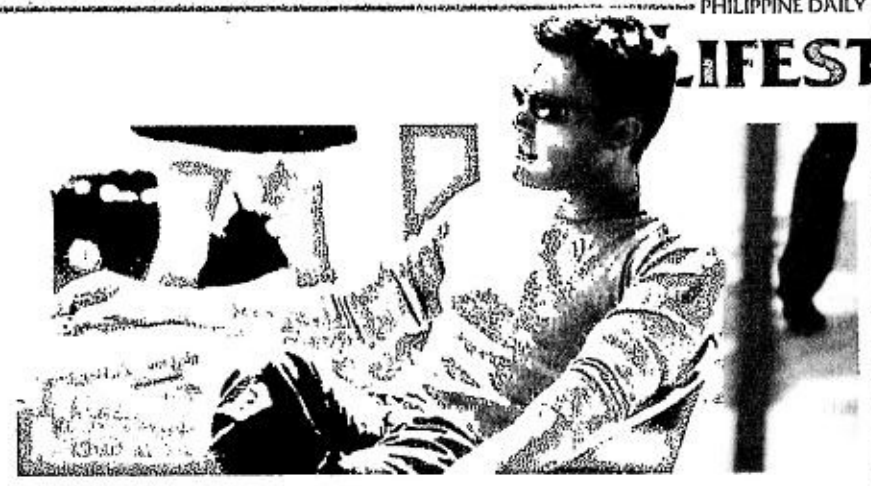
THE LOCAL MUSIC SCENE IS thriving, and so is your love for bands.

But the nominations for one band were overwhelming. You love **Bamboo** and you're proud of it.

Roxanne Nebres of iAcademy told us why she thinks Bamboo clicks. "Bamboo has been in the local airwaves for three years now, but they never fail to bring us something new, something different from what seems to be the usual stencil of the songs being played in your favorite music channels and radio stations. Their song "Noypi" boosted the Pinoy rock scene, giving way to struggling rock bands to finally be noticed and making Sum41 and Avril fans proud OPM converts."

Roxanne will soon be enjoying Bamboo's songs and music videos on her brand new iPod Video.

Other bands that have you clicking include Parokya ni Edgar, Urbandub, Rivermaya, Kamikaze, Brownman Revival, Hale and Up Dharma Down.



Ben Affleck clicks in commercial

SEEMS LIKE HOLLYWOOD hottie Ben Affleck has been bitten by the clicker bug.

The actor, who shot to fame with "Good Will Hunting," "Armageddon" and "Pearl Harbor," surreptitiously clicks on the newest fashion item in the latest Axe Click commercial to keep track of the number of women who lust after his $12-million-per-film smile.

He probably should have used it to count his money instead, as Ben encounters an ordinary-looking Axe guy whose number of flirtatious conquests puts his count to shame!

The harmless-looking tally counter set the local fashion scene abuzz after numerous sightings of males wearing these metallic clickers around their necks and wrists led to speculation on what the guys were clicking them for.

Ben says he had so much fun doing the commercial and breathing life into the role of an overconfident celebrity who thinks he's "pretty hot stuff" until a regular guy squashes his ego.

"No one can turn down an Axe guy. It's sort of a public message: Beware the Axe guy... One can fall victim to [him] if one's not very careful," a grinning Ben says of the chick-magnet body spray.

When told that he emerged the top choice in a recent poll on the best-looking male celebrity in Hollywood, Ben tried to downplay the compliment, saying, "It must be faulty research... That's certainly not how I think of myself."

The same humility, coupled with an easy-going attitude and downright goofiness, endeared the husband of "Alias" star Jennifer Garner and proud daddy of 9-month-old baby Violet to the entire cast and crew during the commercial shoot.

"He is really nice. Really friendly," says creative director Rosie Arnold.

Asked what he thought of LA, where the entire commercial was shot, the actor had this to say about the city where he has lived for 16 years: "It's a beautiful, very glamorous city. It's a place where people come to make their fortunes. There's a sadness and beauty to it, actually. [It's like] Las Vegas. People are coming here to gamble with their lives."

The upbeat commercial is helmed by award-winning director Daniel Kleinman.

The actor appears in a self-deflating commercial making fun of his conquests

They Click!

From page C1

Most Clickable Organization

WE WERE PLEASED AT HOW passionate you were about the different organizations and advocacies you wrote to us about.

And many of you told us about **Yabang Pinoy**, a group of young people who are fervently promoting Filipino pride.

Patrick Joson is one of the many young Filipinos proudly wearing their Yabang Pinoy *abaca* bands. He said, "*Sino pa ba ang tutulong sa ating mga* Pilipino *kung hindi tayo rin mga* Pilipino? Simple *lang ang mensahe ng* Yabang Pinoy, *ipagyabang na ikaw ay* Pilipino, *supportahan at tangkilikin ang mga sariling atin at maging* proud *na* Pinoy *ka*!"

Soon, Patrick will be calling more people to tell them about Yabang Pinoy with his new D&G Motorola V3i.

YABANG PINOY *ipag yabang na ikaw ay Pilipino!*

ONE-HUNDRED 2bU! readers will win special I Click shirts designed by master photographer Xander Angeles.

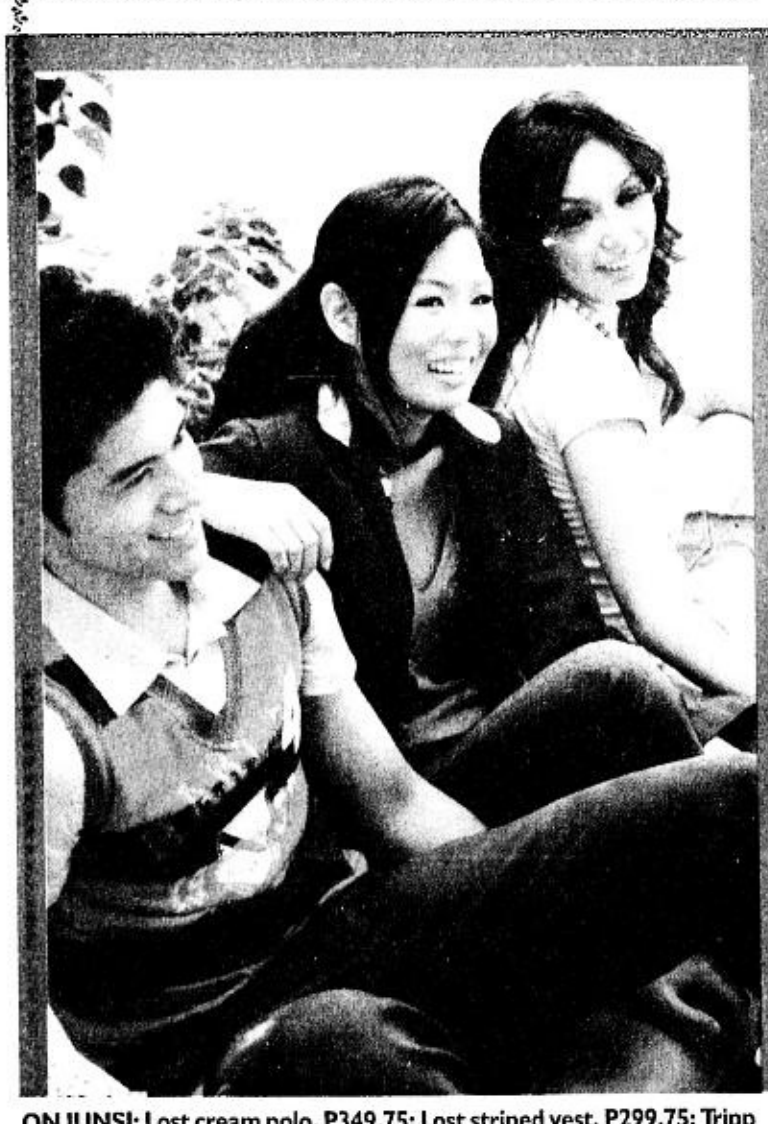
Tribute to National Artist

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY-Loyola Schools will pay tribute to National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera Sept. 22, 5 p.m., at the Science Education Complex Bldg., Escaler Hall.

"Bienvenidos: Ang Muling Pagbabalik sa Ateneo" commemorates Lumbera's pioneering work as chair of the English Department 25 years ago, such as his involvement with the Bagay Poetry movement, the establishment of Philippine Studies and writing workshops.

The tribute will showcase Lumbera's contributions in literature, literary criticism, theater, and music, along with testimonies by friends and colleagues in the academe.

Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, S.J., president of Ateneo, and the School of Humanities under Dean Leovino Ma. Garcia have organized a program of readings and songs in honor of Lumbera.



Rain or shine, these sturdy staples are the best way to go from school to date to night out

MAKEUP: CLAIRE DIOKNO OF SHU UEMURA USING THE 2006 A/W FILIGREE COLLECTION
HAIR: RICKY DIOKNO USING KIEHL'S SINCE 1851
STYLIST: SERIES
MODELS: JUNSI AGAS, NIKKA CONSUNJI AND MAAN ZULAYBAR

ON JUNSI: Beatles shirt; P149.75; RFL jeans, P449.75. On Nikka: yellow shirt, P249.75; Hotkiss denim skirt, P529.75; rose-patterned belt, P209.75

ON MAAN: Black Mamba purple tunic, P299.75; Diva Dolls jeans, P499.75. On Junsi: Soul Rebel shirt, P149.75; Chill olive jacket, P699.75; Rifle jeans, P449.75

ON NIKKA: Miss Sixteen brown jacket, P599.75; TWL pink top, P399.75; G-Girl jeans with butterfly detail, P649.75

Denimdressing

ON JUNSI: Lost cream polo, P349.75; Lost striped vest, P299.75; Tripp jeans, P449.75. On Nikka: IWL halter top, P229.75; Diva Dolls jeans, P449.75; Miss Sixteen olive jacket, P599.75. On Maan: Sugar denim miniskirt with heart detail, P449.75; Triangles blue shirt, P149.75

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Monica Barretto

A GOOD PAIR OF JEANS WILL get you through almost any occasion. However, good jeans can cost an arm and a leg nowadays, sometimes reaching P5,000 a pair.

While lots of teens head to *ukay-ukay* outlets for clothes, others would rather avoid going through dusty piles of clothing for a new outfit. On the other hand, some fashion-savvy teens get their old pairs of jeans and embellish them themselves.

If you have no talent for haggling and hunting down good finds in the *ukay-ukay*, and no patience to embellish your jeans on your own, you might want to visit the teens' section of SM Department Store, which recently unveiled a new collection of denim goodies.

Worth checking out are dark-denim skinny jeans for girls, which look great paired with tunics and fitted blazers. If you're not into skinny jeans, try the ripped and distressed jeans, reminiscent of the '90s grunge era, combined with '60s-inspired designs such as butterflies, sequins and embroidery (they look a lot better than they sound).

Look for the brands Diva Doll, Mudd and Miss Sixteen for jeans; and Hotkiss for cute denim miniskirts.

On the other hand, guys looking for something special in their everyday denim will appreciate interesting but subtle touches such as back pocket designs, faded washes, corduroy trim and graphic designs on their jeans.

Depending on what you pair them with, such as vintage-print shirts, corduroy jackets and preppy polos, the jeans can go from school to dinner dates to nights out with the boys.

HOT-
Hotk
leggi

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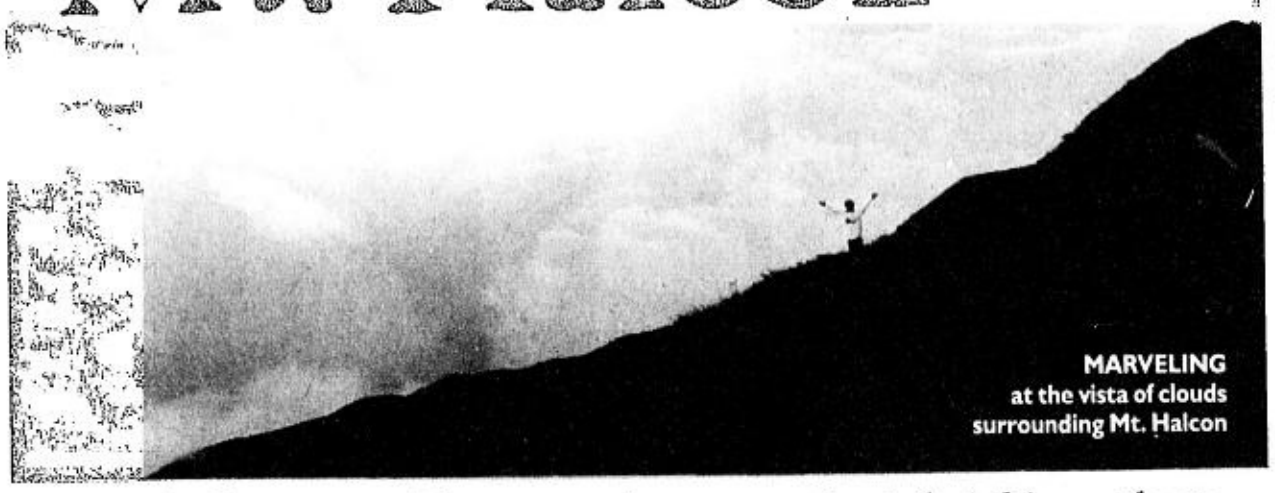
Conquering Mt. Halcon



MARVELING at the vista of clouds surrounding Mt. Halcon

We asked adventurous Pinoys to write essays about their big outdoor adventure. Here's the winner of the 2BU! Merrell Outventure Challenge

By Kenneth Taguilaso
Contributor

MY FRIEND AND I CLIMBED MT. Halcon in Oriental Mindoro one summer weekend.

Although it is only the fourth highest mountain in the Philippines, rising 2,586 meters above sea level, most mountaineers claim that Mt. Halcon is the most difficult to scale. Some climbers even dare say that leaving footprints on its summit makes one a "true Filipino mountaineer."

Well, we thought, there was only one way to find out.

After taking a half-day trip via a bus, a boat and a jeepney, and after securing our climbing permits from the Baco municipal hall, we finally reached the jump-off point of the climb, Lantuyan, where the actual adventure really began!

With the help of a Mangyan guide, we set out for the Aplaya campsite, getting spectacular views of the Aplaya Valley along the way. The next day, we crossed Dulangan River and a vast clearing leading to the popular Knife Edge Ridge. Finally, we reached Mt. Halcon's prized summit with breathtaking clouds all around!

While at the summit, we were awed by the scenic view of Mindoro Island and the nearby islands. We were told that with clear skies all around, one can see Banahaw, Maculot and even Mayon from the summit.

Descending from the summit was equally challenging. But after two days, we were finally on ground level and on our way home, taking with us memories of Mt. Halcon, its summit, Mangyan natives, different trails, terrain, its flora and fauna.

With our adventures scaling the Philippines' toughest mountain, we are already looking forward to returning to Mt. Halcon's summit next year, as true Filipino mountaineers!

The author wins the 2BU! Merrell Outventure Challenge and will receive Merrell gift certificates worth P10,000.

Consolation prize winners were Raymond Magno Ambong, Eric Dollete, Marvin Samson Cruz and Bayani Thaddeus Barcenas. They will all receive a pair of Merrell shoes for the women in their lives.

Winners may contact Frances Crisol or Tonette Salvacion at 6360943 on how to claim their prizes.

SURVEYING new heights

THE GROUP scales Mt. Halcon through a steep trail.

NK off-shoulder top, P249.75; denim skirt, P575.75; striped P299.75

REDHEAD striped tube top, P399.75; Hotkiss shorts, P350; white belt, P149.75

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intel Centrino Duo
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Overshadowed

By Macy Alcaraz
Contributor

ALWAYS ready for the camera—that's us.

AT A RIVERBANKS gig where I watched him

WHAT IT'S LIKE

I used to avoid telling people my surname just so they wouldn't automatically tag me as 'his sister.' But I do feel proud of him

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HIS SHADow. He's the older one, the smarter one, the more talented one and, for the past couple of years, the more famous one.

I used to avoid telling people my surname just so they wouldn't automatically tag me as "his sister." Eventually, when they do find out, they keep asking about him and how it feels like to be his sister.

So, here it is. What it's like to have a brother who's in a band—oh, and not just one band, but three!

I remember when we were kids, we used to sit on the bathroom floor, soap suds all over, me with my wireless mic and my brother with his tiny guitar. I don't remember if we sang actual songs, but the pictures make it seem like we had lots of fun. When we grew a bit older (and slightly taller), we'd perform with our brothers at family gatherings during Christmas.

Fast forward to high school. The once tiny bathroom performer started his own band with his Ateneo batch mates. They played in battles of the bands, school fairs, and variety shows. When they played in our school, my classmates would ask which of them was my brother. And then, my friends would excitedly point him out onstage. It wasn't so bad then. I could say I was even proud of him.

When I went to college, part of my decision not to go to Ateneo was because I didn't want to be known as his sister. I wanted to be my own person, have my own identity apart from his. I didn't realize that it didn't matter what school I went to. My surname would just give me away.

Oh, so you're his sister? That's a line I heard lots of times upon meeting people for the first time. I would just nod quietly and smile.

When I graduated and eventually found a job, I'd still get the occasional question about my brother. Some would say they were even honored to meet me—because they were such big fans of my brother's bands.

And I'd have to say, it proved to be quite a big help when I had to find bands to guest on the show I used to work for. All I had to do was mention that I was his sister, and they'd be willing to help me get the band I wanted to go on the show. It was like I had an instant connection with them, just because I was his sister.

Now, I'm in a new job, and I don't mind being asked about my brother anymore. In fact, I'm even first to volunteer the information when the topic comes up. I see my own name in print, and occasionally even see my picture, too. I actually get my own "fan mail"—with absolutely no mention of my brother. My brother even told me that when their band was a guest on the show I used to work for, people started calling him Macy. Now, there was actually a place where people knew him as Macy's brother!

So what's it like? I don't feel special, but I do feel proud.

This would've been a great birthday gift for him (last week), but it's better late than never. Belated happy birthday, *Kuya* Mong!

Everyone has a story—what's yours? E-mail What It's Like at Ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

Nail care promo

CALIFORNIA NAILS and Day Spa, an affiliate of CANS (California Advanced Nail & Skincare) offers a free 30-minute massage in the nail area when customers avail of P1,500 worth of services. The promo runs until Sept. 30 and is available at BF Homes Parañaque, Market! Market! and Magallanes branches.

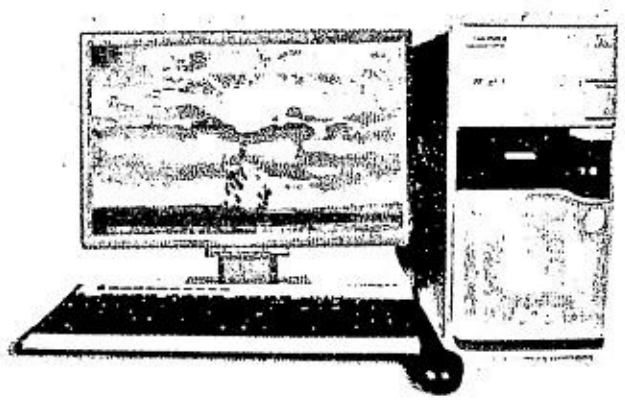
At the Magallanes branch, avail of a manicure and pedicure when you get a California facial and body scrub. BF Homes Parañaque offers a California facial and a foot and leg massage. The Market! Market! and Magallanes outlets also offer free upper lip waxing or eyebrow or underarm waxing when customers avail of a paraffin manicure and pedicure.

Visit the Greenhills branch and check out its stress buster promo for only P500. The Libis branch, meanwhile, has spa pedicure packages for as low as P560. And at the Salcedo branch, avail of a California facial and manicure and pedicure and get a free deluxe foot spa.

Visit California Nails and Day Spa branches at LPL Manor House Salcedo Village Makati (tel. 8132927), BF Homes Parañaque (842-8297), One Kennedy Place North Greenhills (7229245), Paseo de Magallanes Makati (8539211), Market! Market! (8867431), Club Six Fifty Sports Center Libis (6355417), and soon-to-open Pearl Plaza Ortigas (637-6225).

intel Core 2 Duo inside

Acer recommends Windows® XP Media Center Edition.



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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Tech-sawy movers and shakers

An opthalmologist and two entrepreneurial siblings are at the top of their fields

By Gabriel H. Mercado
2bU! Contributor

AT FIRST GLANCE, siblings Lex and Cheese Ledesma and Dr. Dominga Padilla have little in common. But they are regarded as some of the more successful people in their respective fields.

Padilla, or Minguita to her friends, is the president of the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology. Ten years ago, she founded the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines, which has been widely recognized.

Padilla received the Tissue Banks International/International Federation of Eye Banks' Award for Outstanding Achievement in Sight Restoration to the Corneally Blind last November 2005. She was also elected president of the Drug Abuse Research Foundation.

The Ledesma siblings on the other hand, have been featured several times on CNN and Star World as among Asia's top young entrepreneurs.

After setting up The Big Chill, a chain of 20 fruit shake stores, the ubiquitous Karaoke King, which are mall-based recording studios in 15 different malls, and Nami Private Villas, a luxury resort in Boracay, they have been recognized as among the top entrepreneurs in the country.

EXCEL EXPERT. Cheese Ledesma enjoys the fruits of her labors.

POWERPOINT-HAPPY. Eyebank's Dr. Dominga Padilla

LEX LEDESMA is e-mail dependent.

Lex is also executive director of the Center for International Education, an "international associate partner" of the University of Cambridge, at RCBC Plaza Makati. Started in 2004, the school aims to train young people in business and entrepreneurship.

Their backgrounds are disparate, but they have a common denominator such as their enjoyment of their work, their desire to share their success with others, and the high level of productivity and efficiency they have achieved via embracing modern technology.

Growing out of a need

Padilla's Eye Bank Foundation is a key organization in providing high-quality trans-

TECH-SAVVY/ D3

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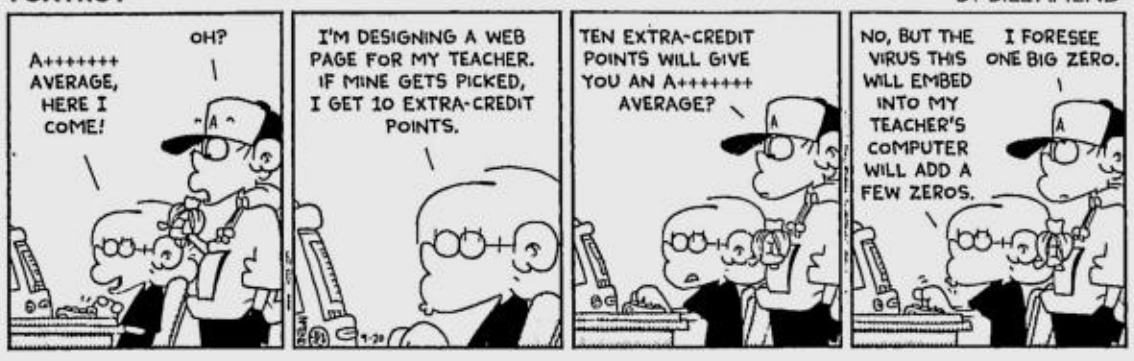
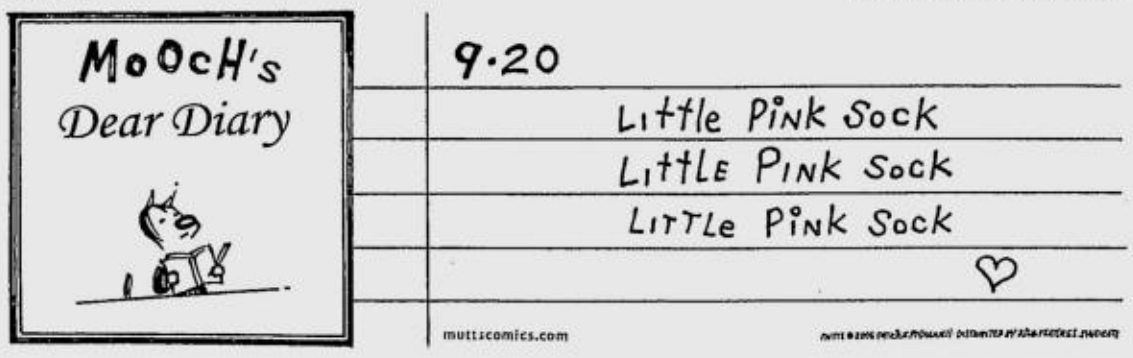


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

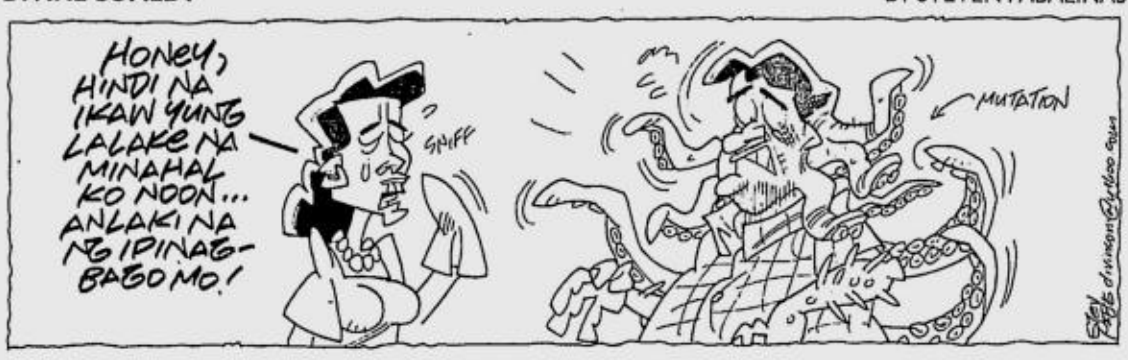
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

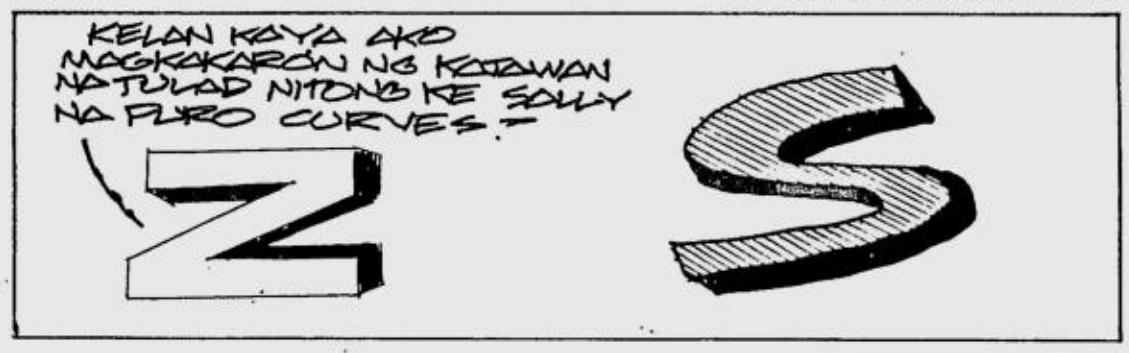
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

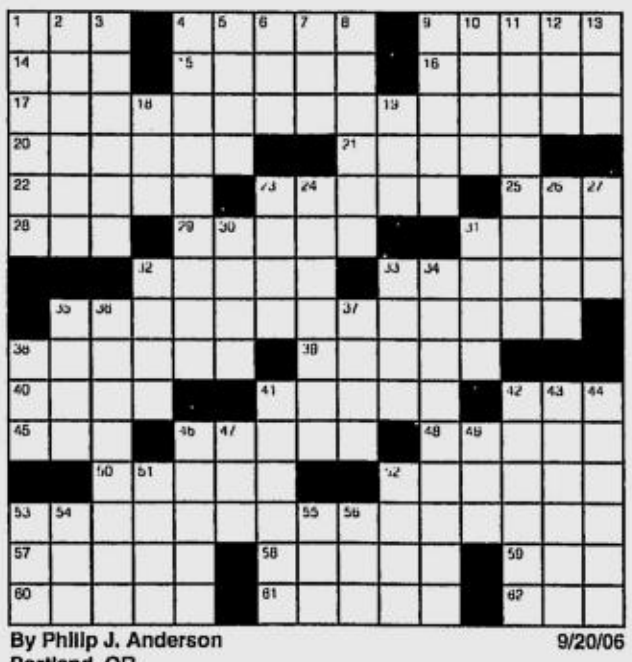
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

9/20/06

ACROSS
1 Tax grp.
4 Hale-Bopp, e.g.
9 Capital of Ghana
14 Bottom line
15 Humiliate
16 Pierced by horns
17 Housekeeping chore for a yegg?
20 Chemical compound
21 Of an ancient alphabet
22 Cheri of "SNL"
23 Venomous snake of Asia
25 Krazy __
28 Old video-game letters
29 Anticipate with alarm
31 Peppy
32 Contaminate
33 Dolts
35 Housekeeping chore for a detective?
38 Clinging mollusk
39 Got up
40 Spheres
41 Perfume
42 P. Hearst's kidnappers
45 __ Lingus (Irish airline)
46 Old daggers
48 __ Park, CO
50 Gladden
52 Brains
53 Housekeeping chore for an editor?
57 City in Provence
58 Be wild about
59 DIY buy
60 All set
61 Irrigate
62 Two in nine?

DOWN
1 Yellow Sea port
2 Narrate
3 Inscribed stone pillars
4 Political runner
5 Hautboy
6 Half a Kenyan rebel?
7 $ quote
8 Set of four
9 Talent broker
10 "__ fan tutte"
11 Nut
12 Gridiron zebra
13 Juice drink
18 Broadcast
19 Chinese Muslim
23 Reno game
24 Daily grind
26 Garfunkel and Carney
27 Cobb and Hardin
30 Fissure
31 Trig function
32 Dosage amts.
33 Press
34 Puppy malady
35 Calamitous
36 Prop for Mary Poppins
37 Corp. VIP
38 Mauna __ volcano
41 Teeter-totter
42 Pitch or putt
43 Admits
44 Selling points
46 Flippant
47 Maximum degree
49 Patriotic men's org.
51 Prevaricated
52 Withered
53 __ for the course
54 Galena or mispickel
55 Harem room
56 Bon __ (witticism)

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

D	A	T	A		C	A	S	K		I	C	A	N	T
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			T	E	S	T		W	A	X	Y			
M	A	P		V	E	S	P	E	R		P	A	I	L
I	R	A	Q	I			U	P	S		U	L	N	A
S	H	O	U	L	D	E	R	T	H	E	L	O	A	D
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M	A	R	A	T		N	A	S	A		C	L	A	N
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9/20/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're hardworking and organized because you strive to improve your life in every way you can. You work well with groups. You're a team player. You're always conscious of the bigger picture and how it affects your loved ones. Because you're a shrewd observer of the human condition, others often seek your advice. The year ahead focuses on partnerships and friendships.
Birthdate of: Guy Lafleur, hockey player; Sophia Loren, actress; Anne Meara, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Power outages, computer crashes and technological interruptions are possible at work today. They might not occur, but then again, they might! Matters are unpredictable.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Parents must be patient with children today because practically everyone feels unusually independent and rebellious. Unexpected opportunities or invitations for parties and fun could occur.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your home routine is interrupted today. Perhaps someone unexpectedly drops by. Small appliances and equipment could break down. Just go with the flow as best you can.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a mildly accident-prone day. Be careful when driving or walking. Similarly, be careful of what suddenly pops out of your mouth, especially when talking to siblings, relatives and neighbors.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Watch your money today. Guard against loss or theft. Impulse buying is also likely. Don't spend money trying to save it with a hot bargain. (Ha!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might feel rebellious about something today. You don't want anyone telling you what to do. Because of this, tiny explosions with others could erupt. You can avoid this by being patient.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might feel extremely restless today and not know why. Don't worry about this. Whatever triggers this feeling will be gone very quickly. Relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): A friend could surprise you today. Alternatively, you might meet someone who is a real character and surprising or unorthodox in some unexpected way. (You won't be bored!)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Tread carefully around bosses, parents, teachers and authority figures today. Tiny explosions are possible. Be careful that you don't say something you'll later regret (unless you're independently wealthy)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Surprising news from another country or from a far distance could catch you off guard today. Expect to encounter someone from another culture or someone who has a different background from yours

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Stay on top of your financial scene today. Things are unpredictable in a minor way. You might lose money; you might find money. Surprise news about other people's wealth or possessions could come to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Conversations might be a bit testy with loved ones and partners, especially late in the day. Knowing this ahead of time, simply be patient.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		6						
4				9				2
	7		8			3	5	
7				3				
5	2						9	7
				8				1
	3	9			5		2	
2				4				9
						6		

Difficulty Level ★★★

9/20

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	2	6	9	5	7	1	3	4
7	3	5	4	1	2	8	6	9
1	9	4	3	6	8	7	2	5
2	4	8	6	9	1	3	5	7
6	7	9	5	8	3	2	4	1
3	5	1	7	2	4	9	8	6
9	8	2	1	4	5	6	7	3
4	1	7	8	3	6	5	9	2
5	6	3	2	7	9	4	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★

Giving you what you are Luk(ing) 4

DIRECTORIES PHILIPPINES Corp. (DPC) brings the yellow pages to your mobile through Luk4.

The service provides instant information via text message, and offers tips and suggestions from gimmick hangouts and sporty spots to movie schedules and romantic restaurants.

You can also get dining and food delivery information, event announcements, business directory services and merchant information.

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Tech-savvy movers and shakers

From page D1

plantable eye tissues.

Previously, all eye tissues had to be sourced abroad or surreptitiously removed from cadavers. "Doctors would have to wait for word from the hospital if an unidentified person had died, and we would rush to take tissue from them," she said.

Padilla said that, at one time, in order to retrieve an eye tissue, she slipped in the hospital morgue, causing several cadavers to fall on top of her. This, she said, made her realize that the situation was illogical as it was unbearable.

"I realized I had to do something," she said. "Doctors had to resort to lying to patients if they needed a transplant, not knowing when and where any would be available." Out of this compelling need, the Eye Bank Foundation was born.

In putting up his school, Lex Ledesma believed that the education system was not relevant to the changing times. "Starting a school has been something I've wanted to do since I was in school primarily because I was so bad at it," he said. "In my opinion the Filipino educational methods haven't changed over the years. Perhaps the information changes to include new technological advances but the metrics for determining success are still the same."

"As an entrepreneur who is lucky enough to associate with other entreps, I see firsthand that most of my peers were not good at school. What they have are street-smarts. We aspire to create a learning environment that parallels what the outside world has. At our school, students are encouraged to find their passions and start enterprises around them. We mentor them as they create their entrepreneurial ventures while still in school."

Ledesma is also a consultant for the International Labor Organization and spearheads an entrepreneurship program called Know About Business, which is incorporated into the national high school curriculum based on a partnership with the Department of Education.

The program has been pilot-tested in 50 schools all over the country since June. "We hope to cascade this to all Philippine high schools by June 2007," he said. "Since so few of our students [I think only 30 percent] ever graduate from college we feel that teaching them entrepeneurship at an early age is one key to helping our country out of our economic rut."

Right tools for the job

Cheese Ledesma swears by Microsoft Excel, claiming she uses it for everything, including room reservation for Nami and even designing a floor plan during the construction of the resort.

"I don't know what I would do without Excel!," she says. "So many have already approached us with proposals for Hotel Reservations Systems, and we were close to buying one at one point, but our system of using Excel does the job [so far], so why change?"

Dr. Padilla said she's completely reliant on technology, particularly her laptop and USB drive. "I keep everything on it, especially my PowerPoint presentations. I am very comfortable with Microsoft Word and PowerPoint and, to some extent, Microsoft Excel.

"In most scientific conventions, it is almost a given that presentations are in PowerPoint. It is almost death by PowerPoint."

"Windows Media Player is also a program that I use a lot for presentations. Imagine, because of IT, I can write essays, compose correspondence, pay bills, distribute salaries, communicate with my staff members, download music, without leaving my desk."

Lex is completely dependent on e-mail. "We make a lot of business decisions purely via e-mail communications using MS Outlook," he said. "For really big decisions, we will meet face to face, but for the small details, we 'cc' each other daily so as to get decisions done quickly."

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Sweet dreams are made of these

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

CHOCOHOLICS WOULD probably give up an arm and a leg to be at the Hershey Park in Hershey, Pennsylvania, which reportedly smells like cocoa on some days due to the extensive amount of chocolate manufactured in the town.

If that sounds like the ideal place for you to visit, now is the time to bring out your cameras and bars of chocolate, because the people at Hershey's are giving a free trip to Hershey Park for the winners of this year's Hershey's Happiness contest.

To join, all you have to do is to take a photo showing how Hershey chocolate makes you happy. There are five categories to choose from: babies and children, *barkada*, couples, family and solo.

Weekly winners from each of the five categories will receive P5,000 in cash and a gift pack from Hershey's. At the end of the contest proper, the top winners from each category can qualify for the top prize: a trip to Hershey Park, USA.

Points are given for originality, adherence to the theme and emotional impact. No lewd and controversial images will be accepted, so it might be a good idea to save the FHM-inspired shoot for another contest.

Also, it is important that you take the photos on your own, or have them taken at Digiprint outlets. Each purchase of a Hershey product will entitle you to two free photos—one to submit and one to keep—at Digiprint during the Hershey's mall tours.

You can also submit photos through MMS, snail mail or e-mail. Just check the website, www.hersheyshappiness.com.ph, for schedules and other details.

Photos cannot be taken at professional studios for legal reasons (i.e., they might claim ownership of your beloved prize later on, so play it safe and take your own). Also, photos that have been entered in other contests or used for commercial purposes cannot be submitted.

The deadline for submission of photos is on Nov. 10, so get your camera and start snapping! Last year, nearly 14,000 photos were submitted, so do your best to stand out from the crowd.

During the launch of the contest, guests participated in an "Amazing Race"-style contest around the Hotel InterContinental. Everyone—including magazine editors in high heels—raced around the hotel, barging into the gym, spa, bar, and other areas in search of clues for the next destination.

Afterwards, guests sat down to a buffet topped off with desserts made with Hershey products. Prizes were also raffled off to guests present at the launch.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

OPENING TODAY

Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros

Stars Nathan Lopez, JR Valentin, Soliman Cruz, Ping Medina

Directed by Auraeus Solito

For its return engagement, the country's entry in the Best Foreign Language Film category of next year's Oscar Awards was "re-graded" by Optimal Digital, Inc. and "re-mastered" by Opticolors— for a "more distinct sound as well as sharper visuals," according to Unico Entertainment, the film's distributor in the US and Europe. Critics showered the movie with prase when it had its US premiere at the Sundance film fest. Anthony Kaufman of indieWIRE called it "a surprising take on innocence lost ... a Sundance favorite." Dennis Harvey of Variety commended it: "An unusually low-key Filipino drama whose neo-realist air triumphs over the script's violent, tearful contrivances."

Twilight Dancers

Stars Tyron Perez, Allen Dizon, Cherry Pie Picache, William Martinez

Directed by Mel Chionglo

Chionglo's third trip down the road to perdition frequented by male strippers, prostitutes and other shady characters had its world premiere at the recently concluded Toronto International Film Festival. International programmer Cameron Bailey dubbed it "a remarkably sensitive film ... Chionglo ... finds an unexpectedly graceful balance between sober social drama and pure erotica."

Kinky Boots

Stars Chiwetel Ejiofor, Joel Edgerton, Sarah Jane Potts

Directed by Julian Jarrold

The opening film in Sundance 2006 has been described as a cross between "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" and "The Full Monty." Inspired by real events, it tells the heartwarming tale of a shoe factory saved from bankruptcy by a "tough, tender" and dazzling drag queen (Ejiofor). Carina Chocano of Los Angeles Times thinks it's "predictably delightful and delightfully predictable." Roger Ebert of Chicago Sun-Times concurs: "Ejiofor's ... an actor doing what not every actor can do—taking a character bundled with stereotypes, clearing them out of the way, and finding a direct line to who the character really is." Exclusively at the Ayala Cinemas.

DOA (Dead or Alive)

Stars Jaime Pressly, Holly Valance, Devon Aoki, Collin Chou

Directed by Cory Yuen

Based on a computer game, "DOA" alludes to a "top secret, island-based martial arts tournament." A ninja princess (Aoki) joins in the grisly tourney to solve the mysterious disappearance of her brother (Chou). Joel Meares of Urban Cinefile: "Tired computer-game conceit seems to hem in the entire production ... [It's] rarely good but rarely dull ... because of the three leads' transcendental charisma."

Step Up

Stars Channing Tatum, Jewan Dewan, Damaine Radcliff

Directed by Anne Fletcher

"Romeo and Juliet" collides with "Fame," as a budding rebel (Tatum) romances a pampered princess (Dewan). She's focused and disciplined; he's a trouble-making slacker. Scott Brown of Entertainment Weekly hails the lead stars "fused by the film's pulsating energy which is both sincere and irresistible."

The Breed

Stars Michelle Rodriguez, Eric Lively, Oliver Hudson, Hill Harper

Directed by Nick Mastandrea

Supposedly inspired by Stephen King's "Cujo" and Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds," this thriller trails five college kids on a holiday in a remote cabin. The teens duke it out with a pack of vicious killer dogs—genetically altered to possess a "frighteningly high level of intelligence and appetite." BeyondHollywood.com states, "It has plenty of human flesh chomping goodness ... [but] nothing outstanding or impressive to warrant the cost of a theatrical release."

Teroy's 'apo' wins 'Pop Star'

By Nini Valera

THE GRANDDAUGHTER of the late comedian Teroy de Guzman was named first "Pop Star Kid" after topping the amateur singing contest championship bout on Saturday night at the Premier Theater at the Mall of Asia in Parañaque City.

Rita Daniela Iringan, 10, a Grade 5 student of St. Rita's College in Parañaque, had a very narrow edge of one point over fellow finalists Pocholo Bismonte, Renzo Ramil Almario, Vanessa Rangadhol and Julie Anne San Jose.

But she was the unanimous pick of the judges—GMA 7 executives Wilma Galvante and Darling de Jesus, talent manager Cacay Velasquez-Mitra, and performers Nanette Inventor and Nyoy Volante.

Most polished

"We all agreed that Rita gave the most polished rendition of her song during the showdown," Galvante told INQUIRER Entertainment after the show. "But all of them were really very good."

Volante said choosing the winner was a difficult task. "These kids are all

TEROY'S/ E6

CHAMPION RITA Iringan shines. RYAN LIM

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METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

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2 (2:00pm) DEAD OR ALIVE
3 (3:00pm) SCOOP
4 (4:00pm) MONSTER HOUSE
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
PREMIERE
(10:30am) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 CRANK

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) DEAD OR ALIVE
5 TWILIGHT DANCERS

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5 (SDDS) STEP UP
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2 (DOLBY) STEP UP
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2 DEAD OR ALIVE
(Subject for MTRCB Rating)

3 SCOOP
MTRCB: PG-13

4 MONSTER HOUSE
MTRCB GP 1:00 3:15
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
MTRCB PG-13 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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2 STEP UP
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JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

NOW SHOWING

Star Cinema hits the spot

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE FILIPINO FILM INDUSTRY hasn't gotten over its long slump, but Star Cinema has heartened movie buffs (and ticked off its rivals) by coming up with one hit after another. A few months ago, it ruled the box office with "Sukob," its blockbuster chiller, which is reported to have grossed a locally stunning P200 million.

Comes now "You Are the One," a romantic comedy, which made an impressive P11 million on opening day. Its strong showing was made even more noteworthy by the fact that its leads were new stars (**Sam Milby** and **Toni Gonzaga**).

In "star-crazy" Philippines, it's unusual for new leads to generate full houses, so the movie's feat is indeed impressive.

How does Star Cinema make profitable lemonade in a movie season of lemons? Some rivals grumble that the studio's feat isn't all that great, because much of it is the result of the fact that it can advertise its films on its popular sister TV network, ABS-CBN.

But, some other producers have also gone the big TV-plugging route and haven't done nearly as well as Star Cinema. So, the studio must have other strengths going for it aside from its massive exposure on television. What could those plus points be?

We observe that the studio gears most of its cinematic products to the youth, young-adult and/or women markets. This is a canny move because the country's demographic is predominantly youthful—and there's also a big market for female-friendly films, most of them romantic comedies and melodramas.

Visual gloss

Star Cinema is also known for good technicals and production values, resulting in a visual gloss that's dependably attractive to viewers.

Then, there's the studio's appealing stable of young contract stars, many of whom have been nurtured on ABS-CBN shows since they were children or adolescents.

This has made them familiar faces to the TV-film audience, and this familiarity, happily enough, has bred, not contempt, but a profitable fondness—and viewer loyalty.

For these and other reasons, Star Cinema is currently making the most number of motion pictures among local film companies, despite the tough times that the local movie industry continues to endure.

To be sure, many of the studio's movies are not that strong in terms of significance of content and theme. But it does occasionally come up with substantial films like "Milan" and "Santa Santita" that help balance the desultory equation.

Star Cinema is also to be credited for giving breaks to new directors. On the other hand, the studio is rapped for its "committee" style of making movies, with all of the members of the committee throwing in ideas, some of them contradictory, to make the film project appeal to all niche markets of viewers.

All told, however, Star Cinema's report card ends up on the plus side, as the studio continues to generate some light and energy to revitalize the still struggling local film industry. May it, as well as other production companies, continue to prosper.

'Zoom'

The new adventure comedy "Zoom" is about teenage superheroes whose powers are developed by Captain Zoom (Tim Allen), an out-of-shape former superhero, so they can save the world from destruction. The film's young stars include **Michael Cassidy**, **Spencer Breslin**, **Kate Mara** and **Ryan Newman**.

'The Marine'

Kelly Carlson, who played Kimber in "Nip/Tuck," flexes her muscles in the action-packed film, "The Marine," opposite WWE champion **John Cena**. In the movie, Cena's character goes back in action after being dismissed from the Marine Corps when his wife

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Twilight Dancers offers a disturbing yet humorous look at Philippine social realities through the eyes of three macho dancers. Dwight, young and at the peak of his trade, loses the girl he loves to a politician's son. Alfred, at 28, is past his prime and is kicked out of the club when the film starts. Bert, 30, has long since given up dancing, and is now the bodyguard-driver of a corrupt yet jolly businesswoman, Madame Loca.

Madame Loca, who prides herself in getting horny at the sound of a gunfire, and has for motto Go Global, manipulates the events that push the three dancers to fight for survival, and to finally confront issues of love, friendship and betrayal.

To top it all, a deaf-mute refuses to go back to her macho dancer husband, a director keeps promising stardom to a male dancer, who in turn lies to his mother that he works at a call center, a transvestite performer fakes being a virgin, a tyrannical mayor cross-dresses at his birthday party, a union leader gets shot by an assassin in broad daylight.

starring: Cherry Pie Picache, Allen Dizon, Lauren Novero and Tyron Perez

MTRCB Rating: R-18
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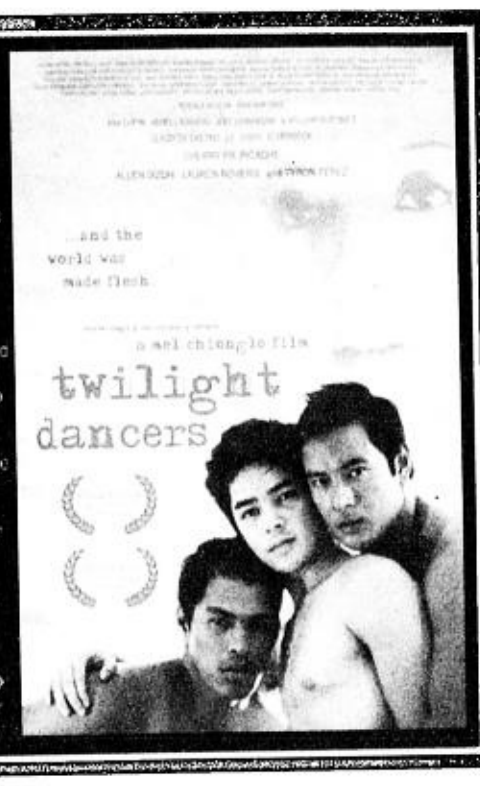

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THE BREED 1:20 / 3:25 / 5:30 / 7:35 / 9:40	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 1:10 / 3:15 / 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:30	YOU ARE THE ONE 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	PLATINUM CINEMA
THE WICKER MAN 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	CRANK 7:00 / 9:30 SCOOP 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	STEP UP 1:10 / 3:45 / 6:20 / 8:55

Ali MALL 5

YOU ARE THE ONE 12:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10	THE BREED 12:15 / 2:20 / 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35	DEAD OR ALIVE
TWILIGHT DANCERS 12:00 R4 / 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10	CRANK 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25	DOLBY DIGITAL · dts · SDDS

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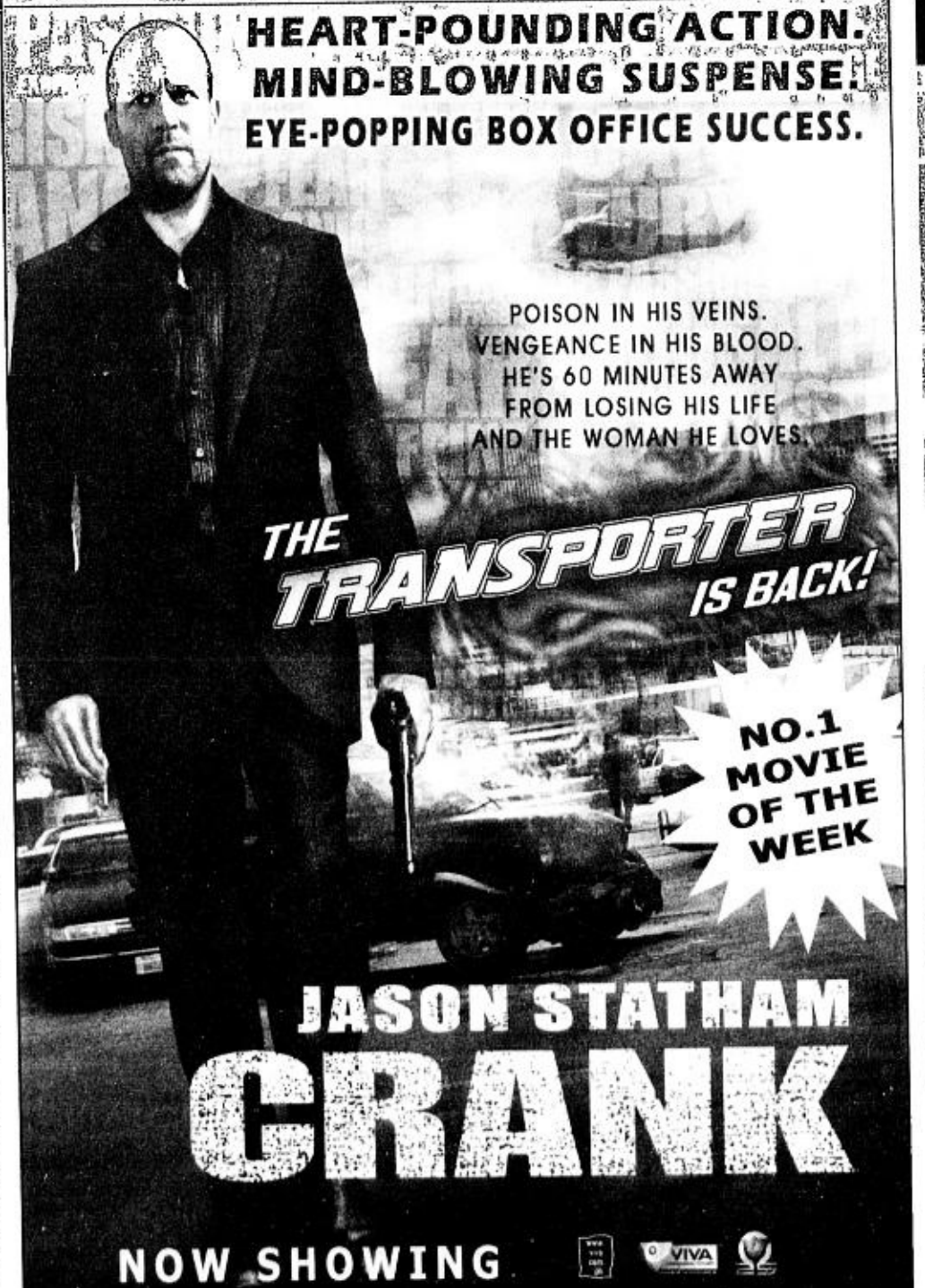

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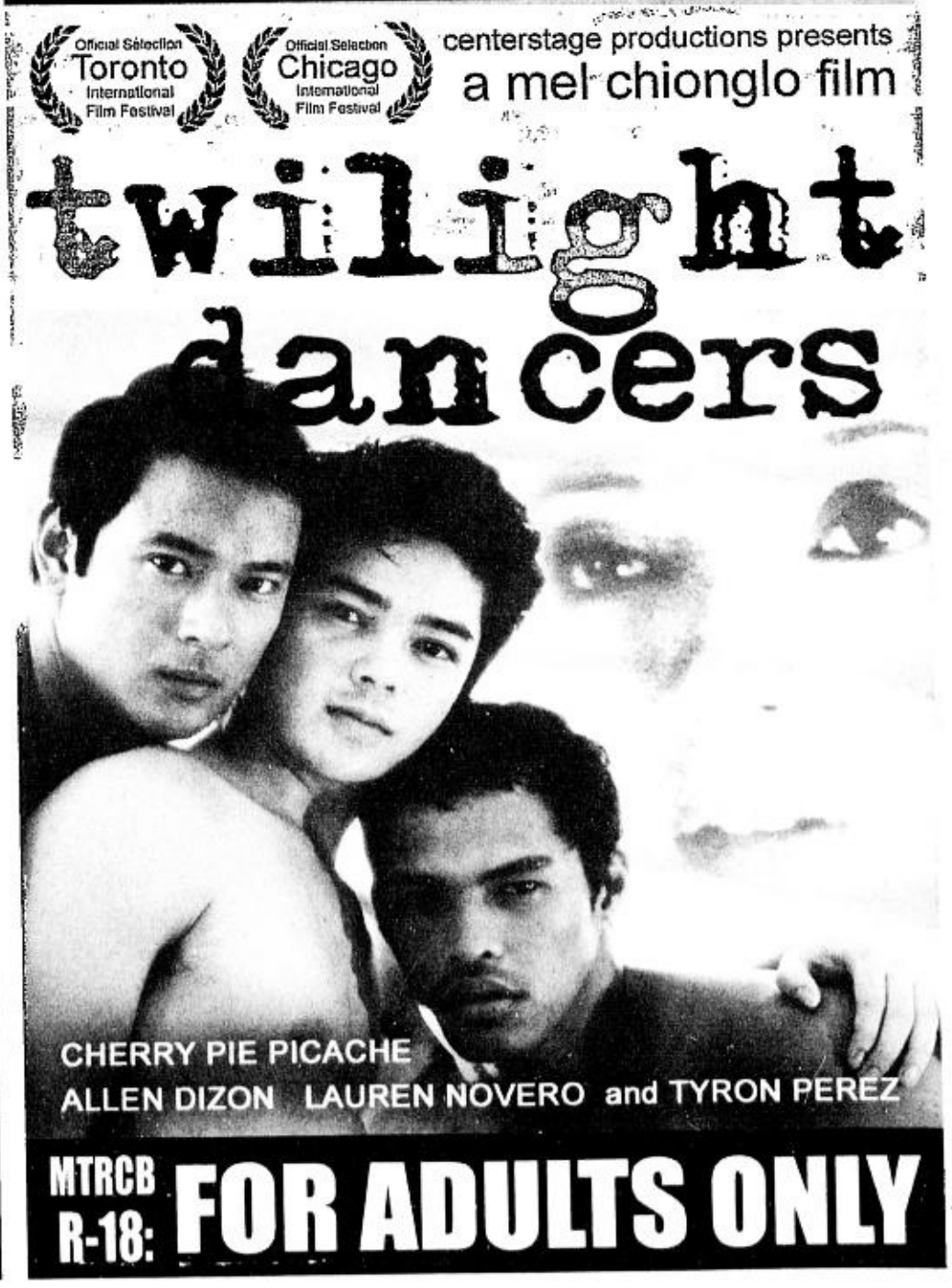


CHERRY PIE PICACHE
ALLEN DIZON LAUREN NOVERO and TYRON PEREZ

MTRCB R-18: FOR ADULTS ONLY

Star Cinema hits the spot

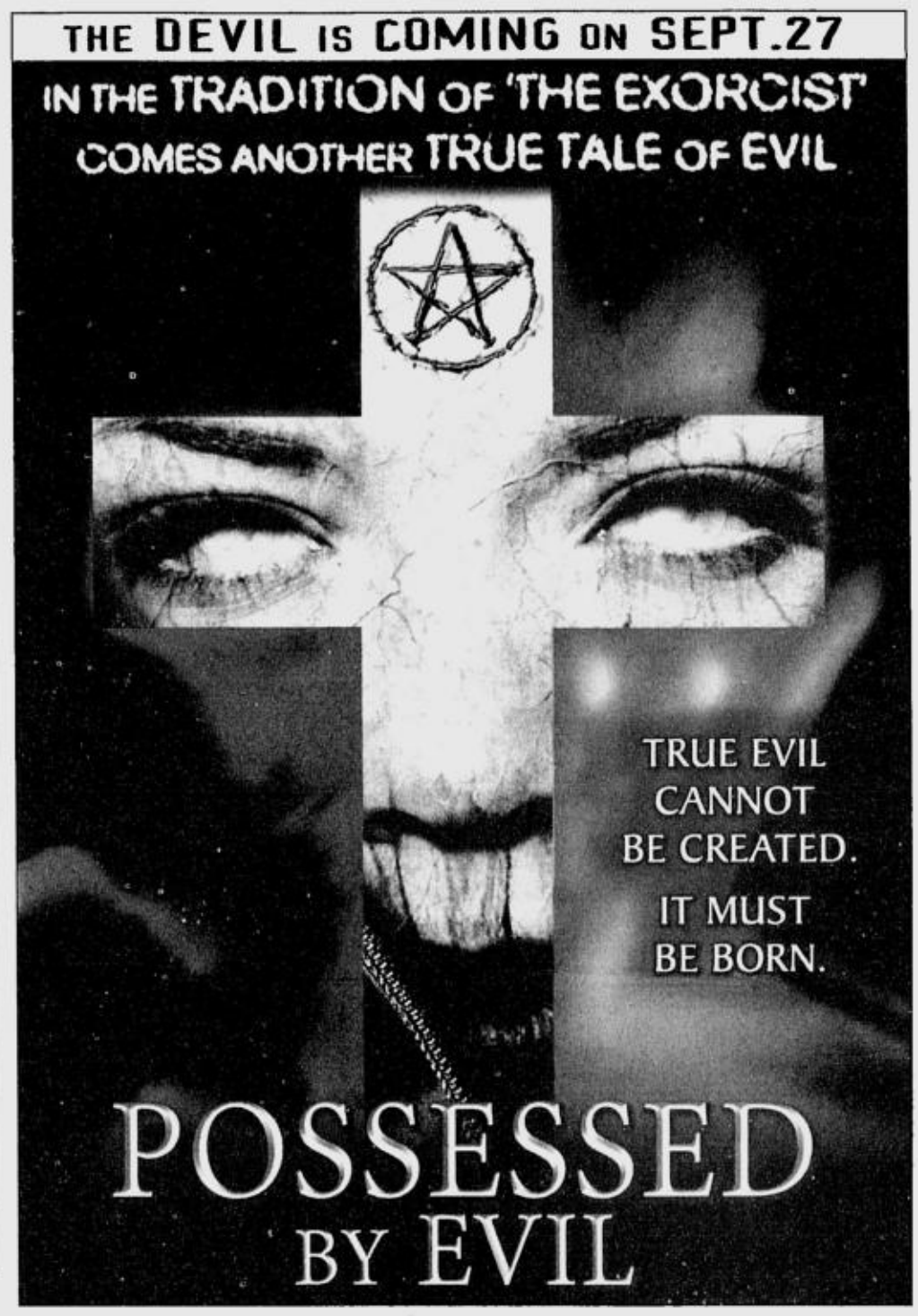
From page E3

(Carlson) is kidnapped by a murderous gang led by a merciless criminal (Robert Patrick). With everything on the line, the Marine will stop at nothing to carry out his toughest mission.

Feedback

From Alvin Lao in Palawan: "On your notes on 'Philippine Idol' (Sad to say, our viewers are not yet knowledgeable or objective enough to choose the best talents'), I would like to point out that the same can be said of the Filipino people in general. Aren't the leaders of this country chosen through the same criteria?—Looks, fame, charisma, etc.

"We, the proud Filipino people, are probably too proud to know what's good for us. The Western concept of democracy may not work for people who keep kicking themselves. Please share this. The Filipino needs his wake-up call (as if there aren't enough of them out there already)."



'Kinky Boots'

"The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" meets "The Full Monty" in "Kinky Boots," a British comedy showing exclusively at Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3. The film is about two dreamers who finally figure out how to stand up for themselves—in thigh-high leather stilettos.

Launch party

At 8 p.m. on Sept. 22, Charriol and Stores Specialists, Inc., in cooperation with Hotel Philippine Plaza, are throwing a launch party for Kucha waches. (ojo)

The after-dinner cocktails will be held at the Plaza's Sunset Pavilion, The exclusive event promises to "fulfill your most untames fantasy."

'My Today' album promo tour

The Norwegian trio, **D'Sound**, arrives in Manila tomorrow for its "My Today" album promo tour. The trio performs at SM Mall of Asia at 6 p.m. on Sept. 22. Its new album's cuts (ojo) include "Green Eyes," "Universally," "Feel Again" and "Birthday."

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THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 TWILIGHT DANCERS	2 THE BREED	3 YOU ARE THE ONE	4 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE BREED	2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	3 THX DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE GUARANTEED SEATS				
	4 KINKY BOOTS	5 CRANK	6 STEP-UP	7 YOU, ME & DUPREE			
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE		2 STEP-UP				
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX STEP-UP GUARANTEED SEATS				
	3 MONSTER HOUSE / AUSTRALIAN FILMFEST GUARANTEED SEATS	4 KINKY BOOTS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS				
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX STEP-UP GUARANTEED SEATS		2 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE				
	3 THE BREED	4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	5 SCOOP				
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 4TH AUSTRALIAN FILM FESTIVAL	2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	3 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE	4 THE WICKER MAN			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 STEP-UP		2 TWILIGHT DANCERS				
	3 THE BREED	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE				

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FEEDBACK

Was that correct?

FROM Doreen Savilla (mocha7541@yahoo.com), CSSAC, Pili, Camarines Sur 4418:

I just would like to comment on Fran Katigbak's article, "'Little punk' gets the job" in PDI's Sept. 17 issue.

The author wrote that Magni "holds the distinction of being the only rocker not voted to the Bottom 3 rankings on any elimination night."

I think the writer is not very much familiar with the show or maybe she fell short on her research. I've been watching "Rockstar: Supernova" religiously since its first week and Magni has been voted to the Bottom 3 thrice (or not really voted, being in the bottom 3 means being one of those with the least votes) during the show's entire duration.

Further, this statement is in conflict with the additional information that Magni once admitted, he had become used to landing in the Bottom 3 ranks.

Luckily, Supernova kept him until the season's finale. I hope PDI will publish the "exclusive interview" conducted prior to the finals, as mentioned in the article.

I am really a big admirer of Magni's, and I guess many Filipinos are, too.

Also, I am an avid reader of INQUIRER; I enjoy reading it —more than other national newspapers. That's why I wrote this reaction.

Thanks, and God bless you.

***

Thank you, Doreen, for calling our attention.

The sentence should have read, "Magni holds the distinction of being the only rocker not voted to the Bottom 3 rankings during one very tough elimination night." That was on Week 9, when all the remaining rockers—except Magni who got the highest number of votes—were in the Bottom 3 at some point during the previous day's polls.

Please rest assured that Fran Katigbak and the whole staff of INQUIRER Entertainment were dedicated to the series from Day One, like yourself. Also, that Magni was on our Top 4 list till the competition came close to the finale, when we stopped rooting for any one finalist in particular because they were all extraordinary. You will agree that this was a grittier batch than the one we also eagerly followed on "Rock Star: INXS."

And we all still feel bad about Storm.

Keep rockin', keep reading the INQUIRER, and keep us on our toes by sending feedback like this one as often as possible.

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2 DEAD OR ALIVE	7 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 STEP UP	8 THE WICKER MAN
4 CRANK	9 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
5 THE BREED	10 SCOOP

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 DEAD OR ALIVE	
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	5 THE BREED
3 STEP UP	6 CRANK
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS	7 SCOOP

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1 THE BREED	5 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 DEAD OR ALIVE	6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 STEP UP	7 THE WICKER MAN
4 CRANK	8 SCOOP

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1 THE BREED	3 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS	4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

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1 SNAKES ON A PLANE	1 THE BREED
2 CRANK	2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 RESERVE	3 STEP UP
4 RESERVE	4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

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4 CRANK	4 YOU'RE THE ONE

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1 CRANK	1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS	2 STAY ALIVE
3 THE WICKER MAN	3 THE WICKER MAN
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

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1 STAY ALIVE	1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS	2 CRANK
3 THE WICKER MAN	3 SCOOP
4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	4 THE WICKER MAN
	5 YOU'RE THE ONE
	6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

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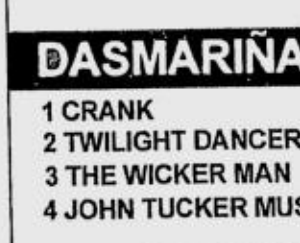
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE	2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE	3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 YOU'RE THE ONE	4 BINIBINING K
5 KUBRADOR	
6 BINIBINING K	



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1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 CRANK/ SCOOP
3 JOBS DB EVENT
4 JOBS DB EVENT
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
7 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

PREMIERE CINEMA
THE BREED
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
DEAD OR ALIVE
CENTERSTAGE
STEP UP
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
SCOOP
CINEMA 2
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
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1 STEP UP
2 WICKER MAN
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 STEP UP
6 DEAD OR ALIVE
7 CRANK
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 SNAKES ON A PLANE
10 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
11 WICKER MAN
12 THE BREED

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 STEP UP
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 THE BREED
5 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 WICKER MAN
8 MONSTER HOUSE
9 CRANK
10 SNAKES ON A PLANE
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
2 ETERNITY
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 WICKER MAN
5 THE BREED
6 CRANK
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 STEP UP
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 LITTLE MAN
11 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 STEP UP
3 CRANK
4 THE BREED
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
8 BINIBINING K
9 WICKER MAN
10 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 STEP UP
4 THE BREED
5 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 CRANK
3 THE BREED
4 STEP UP
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 WICKER MAN
7 ETERNITY
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 SCOOP
4 THE BREED

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 STEP UP
2 WICKER MAN
3 CRANK
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 DEAD OR ALIVE
7 LITTLE MAN
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 SCOOP
12 THE BREED

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1 CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 WICKER MAN
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

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1 WICKER MAN
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BINIBINING K

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1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 CRANK
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 WICKER MAN

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1 CRANK
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
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3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

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1 CRANK
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

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2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 STAY ALIVE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 SNAKES A ON PLANE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 CRANK
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 SCOOP

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 SNAKES A ON PLANE
4 CRANK
5 SCOOP
6 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 THE BREED
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 CRANK

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 WICKER MAN
3 CRANK
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 CRANK
4 WICKER MAN
5 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 STORMBREAKER

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SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 RESERVED
3 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 BINIBINING K
7 RESERVED
8 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 BINIBINING K
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

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1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 BINIBINING K
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4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

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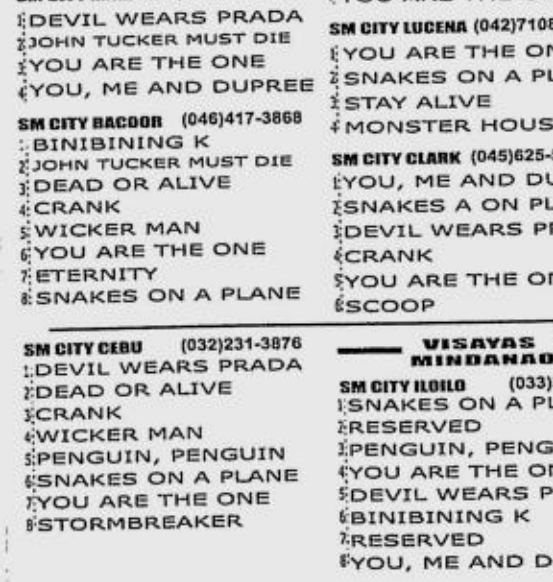

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IT'S Filipiniana for winners Lily Monteverde, Marvin Agustin, Zsazsa Padilla and Joel Lamangan. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Luna Awards goes local

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE LUNA AWARDS, HANDED out by the Film Academy of the Philippines, went Filipiniana this year.

"The past two years we had Hollywood and Golden Age glamour as motif. On our 24th year, we decided to go back to our roots," FAP director-general Leo Martinez explained to INQUIRER Entertainment.

As host Lani Mercado put it: "We're wearing our *lolas'* (grandmothers') clothes tonight."

"I also made sure to highlight Filipino songs in the musical numbers," Martinez noted.

"Alternative" stalwarts Joey Ayala, Bayang Barrios, Edru Abraham and Kontra-Gapi shared the stage with pop stars like Ara Mina, Jolina Magdangal, Christian Bautista and Rochelle Pangilinan.

Actually, the concept celebrated the country's eight Unesco World Heritage Sites. Mercifully, no one came dressed as the Banaue Rice Terraces or the Tubbataha Reefs.

But, there's a political reason for the motif, said Martinez. "I wanted to emphasize the fact that film is part of our culture."

As he expressed in his open letter in the souvenir program: "[Our] industry has always been referred to as the entertainment industry. How simplistic... [and] superficial. If only our leaders and lawmakers would just dissect our industry intelligently, and with sincerity, they will realize that... films promote culture."

He stressed that the main reason the awards show had been pushed back from its original schedule in May, then July, was the reduction of FAP's subsidy (from the Metro Manila Film Festival fund) from 30 to 10 percent.

"Some of our employees have taken pay cuts, some are not being paid at all," Martinez said. "Still, the show must go on."

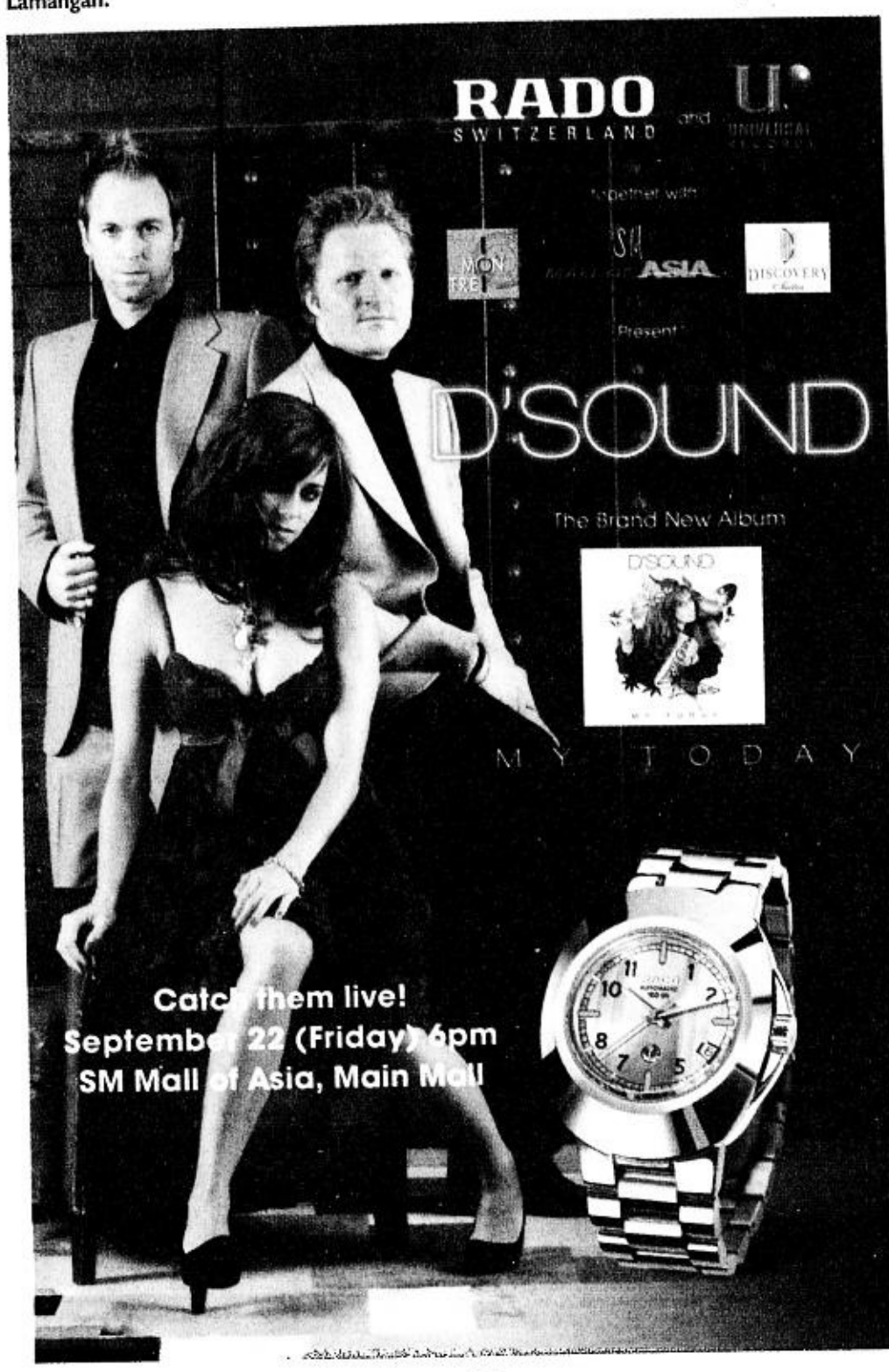
In fact, the FAP sponsored a scriptwriting and storyline writing contest that promised at least P850,000 in cash prizes.

The Luna awards show was made possible with a partial (P1.5 million) subsidy from the MMFF fund and the combined efforts of the different guilds under FAP and show producer Eight Elephants Productions, Martinez pointed out.

Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta, head of Eight Elephants, reiterated that producing the Luna show is a labor of love.

"It's my family's way of giving back to the movie industry which has given us so much. It was tiring, but worth all the effort because the industry people were happy with the way the show turned out," she said.

"The producers did a good job," Martinez agreed. "In fact, we are thinking of working with them again next year."



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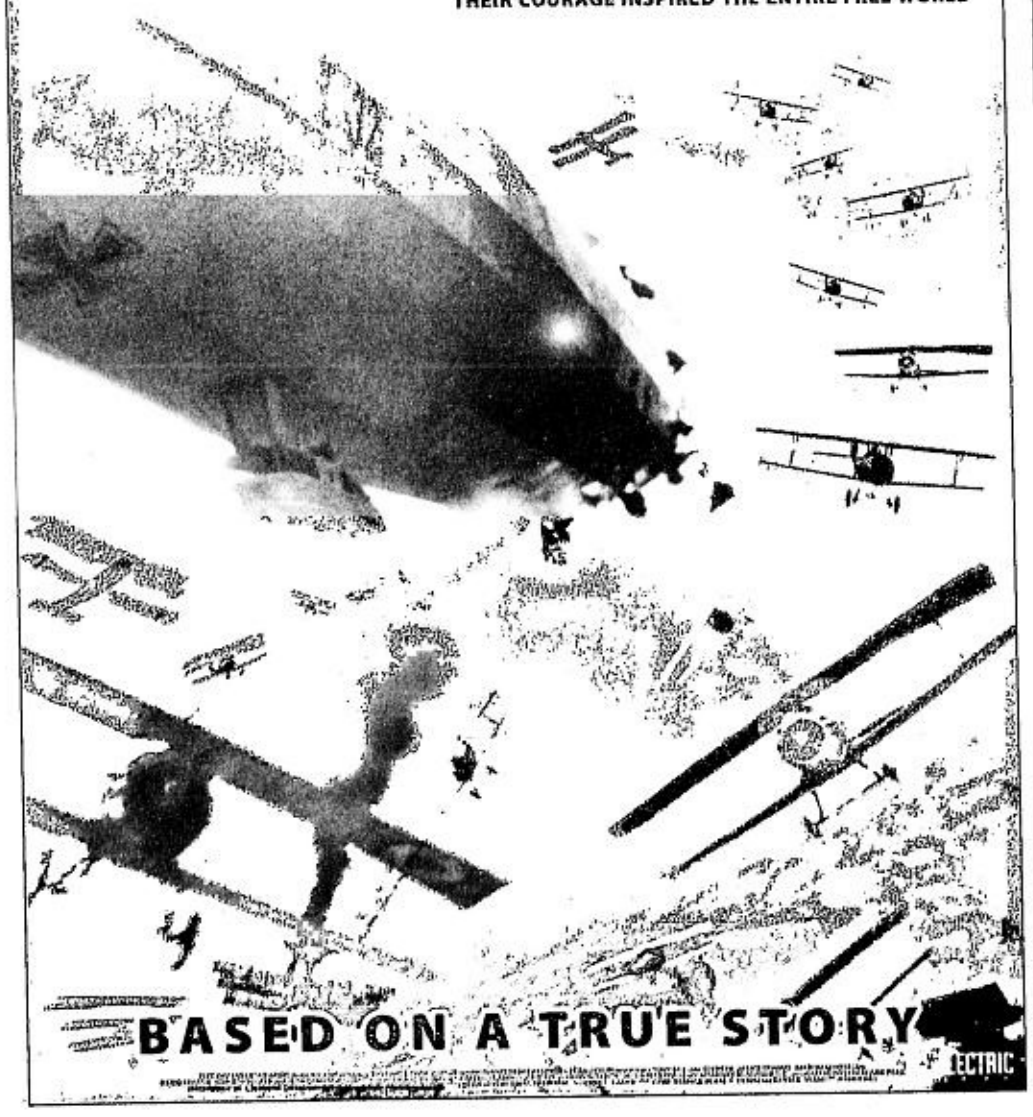

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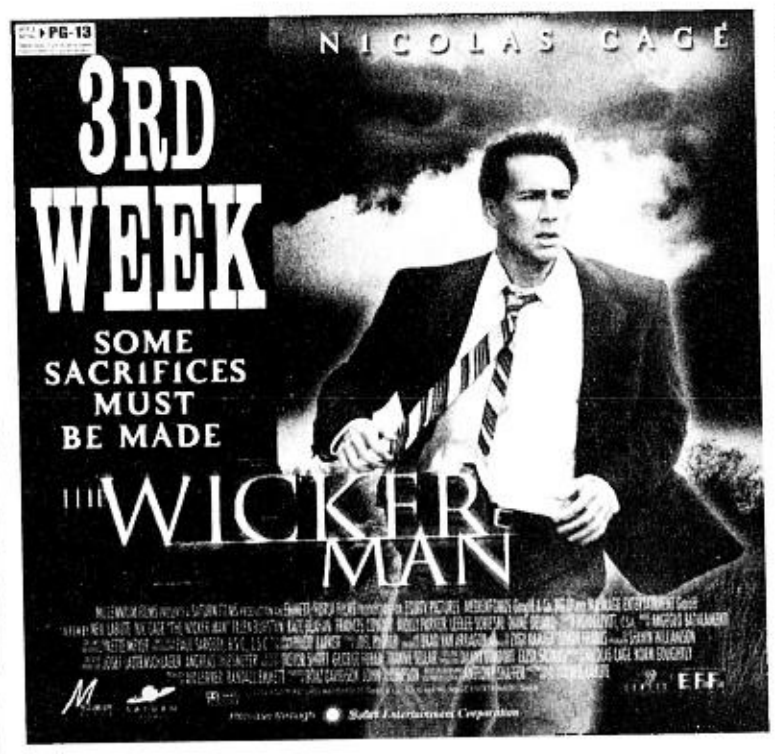

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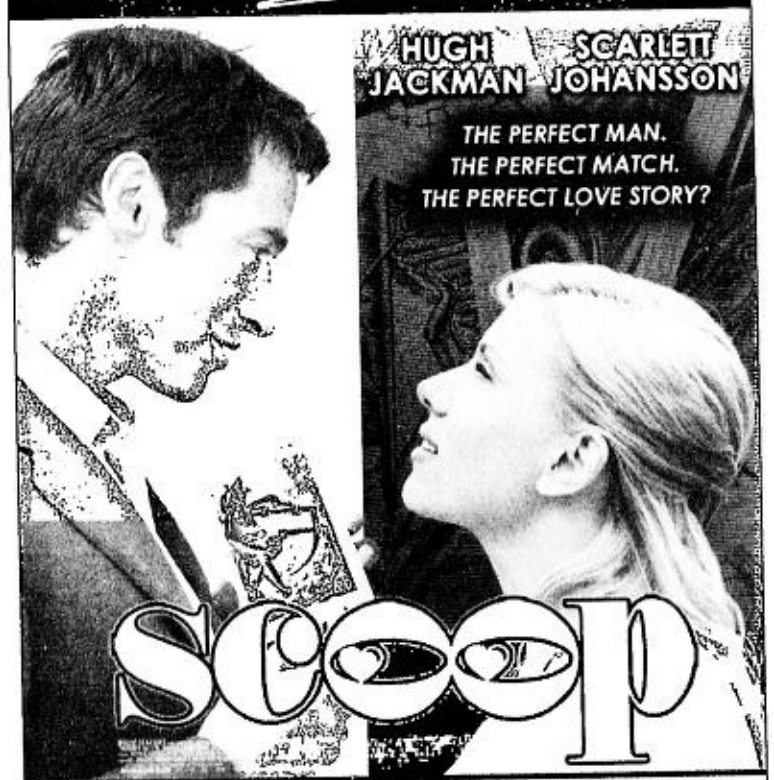
AMERICA'S HOTTEST AND SEXIEST STARS TOGETHER IN A DANGEROUSLY ROMANTIC COMEDY



"JACKMAN AND JOHANSSON, HANDLE THE SEXUAL HIJINKS IN STYLE!" Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"JACKMAN IS IN FULL CARY GRANT MODE. JOHANSSON IS LUMINOUS!" Bob Ross, TAMPA TRIBUNE

"A CHARMING, ROMANTIC COMEDY THRILLER" Christy Harris, SALT LAKE CITY TRIBUNE

"THE FUNNIEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR SO FAR! FUNNY LIKE YOU WALK OUT WANTING TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS ITS BEST LINES. FUNNY LIKE YOU'RE WALKING DOWN THE STREET AND REMEMBER A MOMENT AND START LAUGHING LIKE AN IDIOT." Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"GUARANTEED TO KEEP YOU SMILING!" Rex Reed, NEW YORK OBSERVER

"THERE ARE PLENTY OF OLD-SCHOOL MURDER-MYSTERY MOMENTS TO KEEP YOU GUESSING." Lisa Kennedy, DENVER POST

FINALISTS (from left) Vanessa Rangadhol, Pocholo Bismonte, Renzo Almario, Julie Anne San Jose and Rita Iringan RYAN LIM

Teroy's . . .

From page E1

very talented," he said. "We had a very hard time. I wish I were as driven as they are."

Rita had barely finished singing her winning song, Destiny's Child's "Stand Up For Love," after being announced the winner when emotion overwhelmed her.

The young champion's biggest wish before she joined the contest was to meet her favorite stars. Backstage, she told INQUIRER Entertainment that she would use part of the P300,000 she had won to treat the orphans in the care of the nuns in St. Rita's. Some of them were in the audience that night.

"I will share the money with them," Rita said. "They are my biggest fans; they gave me all the support and encouragement that I needed."

But it was Rita's mother, Rosanna, who was the happiest in the crowd.

"*Ang anak ko! Ang anak ko!* (That's my daughter)," she shouted after emcees Raymond Gutierrez and Kyla called out Rita's name.

Vicarious thrill

Earlier, the older Iringan admitted in an interview that she was reliving her own childhood dream of stardom through Rita, since her father had stopped her from joining show biz.

Rita also received an all expense-paid vacation at the Golden Sunset Resort in Calatagan, Batangas from beauty chain tycoon Ricky Reyes.

All five finalists will also sign recording contracts with GMA Records and management contracts with GMA Network.

One of them, Renzo, cried after the hosts announced their record deal.

"I'm very happy for all of us... that we would all have our own CD," said the usually happy Renzo, who is believed to have the makings of a matinee idol. "That is my biggest dream."

"Pop Star Kids" is the first talent search show for children produced by the QTV11, patterned after the successful "Pinoy Pop Superstar" aired over GMA 7, QTV's sister station.

'POP Star Kid' Rita Iringan gives mom Rosanna a big hug. RYAN LIM

LIFESTYLE / C1

Like wine, good olive oil should be balanced, with body, and round with flavor

ACROSS / A15

Ex-NPA chief says air freer now for Left

WORLD/ A22

Hungarian leader's admission of lying in polls sparks riots

METRO / A19

PBA assistant coach charged with acts of lasciviousness by lounge manager

Thai military takeover condemned worldwide

GOVERNMENTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOcates on Wednesday demanded that Thailand swiftly return to democracy after Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted overnight in a bloodless coup.

Governments across Asia, as well in the United States and Britain, issued warnings to their citizens to rethink travelling to Thailand, a major

THAI/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, September 21, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 285 P18 website: www.inq7.net

MILITARY might is symbolized by a tank standing guard on Si Ayutthaya Road in Dusit, Bangkok, the district where Government House and Chitralada Palace, King Bhumibol's residence, are located. The white building in the background (with the statue of the king astride a horse in front) is the ceremonial Throne Hall.

ROBY ALAMPAY/CONTRIBUTOR

Martial law in Thailand

Marcos' repressive laws still govern us

By Jose Manuel Diokno
Contributor

Editor's Note: The writer is the chair of the Free Legal Assistance Group

THE ONE THING THE PEOPLE POWER Revolution of 1986 did not do was repeal repressive laws of the Marcos dictatorship.

We succeeded in toppling a dictator, but somewhere along the way forgot to do away with his dictatorial laws.

COMMENTARY

That is why it took almost 20 years before we repealed Ferdinand Marcos' antisquatting law. It is also why, even now, we are still governed by Marcos laws and highly dubious rulings of a Marcos-controlled Supreme Court.

The provisional Constitution promulgated by President Corazon C. Aquino in 1986 provided that "(a)ll existing laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, letters of instruction ... and other executive issuances not inconsistent with this Proclamation shall remain operative until amended, modified or repealed by the President or the regular legislative body to be established under a new Constitution."

MARCOS'/ A6

INQUIRER PHOTO

MARTIAL rule "to save the republic and reform our society" is broadcast by President Ferdinand Marcos, with Press Secretary Francisco Tatad beside him, on Sept. 23, 1972.

TIMELINE

Fake ambush of Enrile ushered in martial law

Editor's Note: Below is the sequence of events during the 48 hours leading to the declaration of martial law by the dictator Ferdinand Marcos

Sept. 22, 1972 (Friday)

Before 9 p.m. Then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, on his way home to Dasmariñas Village in Makati, is "ambushed" by "communist terrorists" who peppered one of the cars in his convoy with bullets. Enrile escapes unharmed.

He would later admit at a press conference with Fidel Ramos in February 1986 that the ambush had been staged. He and Ramos were part of the "Rolex 12," the group of military advisers who had helped Marcos plan martial law.

Among the 12 were Gen. Fabian Ver; then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo Espino; then Army chief Maj. Gen. Rafael Zagala; Maj. Gen. Ignacio Paz, head of Army Intelligence; Air Force Maj. Gen. Jose Rancudo; Navy Rear Adm. Hilario Ruiz; Brig. Gen. Tomas Diaz, head of a key Constabulary unit; Brig. Gen. Alfredo Montoya, head of the Manila Metropolitan Command; Col. Romeo Gatan, commander of the constabulary in Tarlac; and, Eduardo Cojuangco, the only civilian in the group.

FAKE/ A8

Ousted in Army coup, Thaksin flies to UK

BANGKOK—THE MILITARY LEADER WHO OUSTed Thailand's billionaire Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in a quick, bloodless coup said Wednesday the move was necessary to end Thaksin's erosion of democratic institutions and hinted the fallen leader could face prosecution for wrongdoings.

In the country's first coup in 15 years, Army Commander in Chief Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratklin led a rapid, well-orchestrated overthrow while Thaksin was in New York for the United Nations General Assembly.

Not a shot was fired during the nighttime operation starting late Tuesday.

Thaksin apparently tried to head off the coup by phoning a Thai television station to announce a state of emergency but was cut off after 10 minutes.

The new regime put the country under martial law and declared a provisional authority loyal to the Thai king, seizing television and radio stations and ordering government offices, banks, schools and the stock market to close for the day.

It was Thailand's 18th coup since it became a constitutional monarchy in 1932.

On Wednesday, Thaksin boarded a chartered Thai Airways flight for London at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, a reporter traveling with him said.

"I didn't expect this incident would happen," Thaksin told reporters on the chartered plane as he headed to London, according

THAKSIN/ A9

Little cause for celebration

By Amando Doronila

THIRTY FOUR YEARS AFTER FERDINAND Marcos dismantled Philippine democracy in a bloodless coup on his elected government, Filipinos are uncertain over the survival of their democratic system in the short term.

ANALYSIS

The anniversary today inspires little cause for celebration in the light of developments over the past 20 years indicating that Philippine democracy has been on the decline since its restoration in the 1986 People Power Revolution.

Rather than consolidate democracy, the post-Edsa period has been rocked by a cycle of political turmoil and constitutional crises that have weakened the fabric of Philippine constitutional system in the face of recurrent political stalemates.

The decline of democracy in the Philippines was acutely heightened by the shocking news of the military coup in Thailand that overthrew the highly controversial government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who has been engulfed in a constitutional cri-

LITTLE CAUSE/ A8

Days of paranoia, nights of unease

By Jose F. Lacaba
Contributor

Editor's Note: The writer is the executive editor of YES! magazine.

SEPT. 21, 1972, IS THE DATE ON PRESIDENtial Proclamation No. 1081 declaring martial law throughout the country, but those of us who lived through the turbulent years of military rule now know that the proclamation was antedated.

Sept. 21 was a legal fiction, used simply because Ferdinand Marcos' lucky number was supposed to be 7, and 21 was divisible by 7.

Sept. 23, two days later, was actually the day we found out about martial law. That was a Saturday, if memory serves (not my own faulty senior-citizen memory, but a fellow journalist's).

On that day, I was holed up in a relative's house.

About a week earlier, there were already

DAYS OF PARANOIA/ A8

AFP officials rule out Thai-style coup vs GMA

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MILITARY OFFICIALS YESTERday ruled out a Thai-style coup d'etat against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

No coup attempt has yet been staged in the Philippines in the past two decades, studded with recurrent mutinies, while the President was away—as in the case of Thailand.

"The chain of command is intact and we don't see any similar event happening here," said Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff.

"The AFP remains loyal to the duly constituted authorities ... We are taking orders from our commander in chief," Esperon said in a statement issued after his regular weekly meeting with his deputy chiefs of staff in Camp Aguinaldo.

Attending a budget hearing later, Esperon told congressmen that a power grab in the Philippines was "remote."

"We are on the road to a lot of reforms, including making your armed forces ... a pillar in nation building, an organization that will follow its mandate," he said.

"Personally also, I know all the service commanders and I could tell you that a matter of the coup d'etat cannot be entertained in the AFP."

AFP OFFICIALS/ A9

'Jueteng' witness calls it quits, leaves RP

By Nikko Dizon

THE "JUETENG" WHISTLE-BLOWER IS NOW among the army of overseas Filipino workers.

Without fanfare, Sandra Cam flew out of the country on Tuesday to work in the Middle East.

Cam was a passenger of Cathay Pacific Flight CX 900, which took off at noon from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, according to the

JUETENG/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE FEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/20/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Nicole: 'Absolute loss of trust'

Rape complainant files bid vs prosecutors today

By Volt Contreras

NICOLE, THE COMPLAINANT IN THE SUBIC RAPE CASE against four US Marines, will file today a formal manifestation before the Makati City Regional Trial Court expressing her "absolute loss of trust" in the government prosecutors handling her case, her private counsel Evalyn Ursua said.

Ursua, in an interview yesterday, said her client planned "to make official and on-record" her continuing disapproval of the Department of Justice panel headed by Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe De los Santos.

Despite this announcement, Malacanang said the government would like to see the case through. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters yesterday that "it was the duty of the Philippine government to continue with the prosecution."

Nicole and her mother have charged that the lead government prosecutor of urging them to 'just settle' with the US Marines accused of raping her while on board a moving van inside the Subic Bay Freeport on Nov. 1, 2005.

They also claim De los Santos insinuated that if they didn't settle, the government may 'trade off' the case with that of agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, who is detained in the US and wanted for investigation here of a multi-million farm equipment fund diversion.

Both charges have been denied by De los Santos.

Nicole earlier said she wanted all the public prosecutors relieved except for government lawyer Hazel Valdez. On Monday, however, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales turned down her request. Open recriminations followed, with Nicole's camp calling the DOJ 'incompetent,' and De los Santos calling her an 'ingrate.' Gonzalez also said in a televised interview that Nicole's camp was "imagining things,'at the prodding of her "left-leaning backers."

In another forum, Ursua disclosed that neither she nor Nicole knew about the meetings between Nicole's family and the lead prosecutor. Nicole's mother disclosed the meetings after her daughter walked out of her own trial last week.

Public prosecutors should yield to Nicole's call ``out of delicadeza" and "ethics in the legal profession," she added.

"Among lawyers, when your client tells you that you're not trusted anymore, you say 'okay, fine,'" she explained. "Please, let us not wait for the day when we start calling it a sellout."

Nicole, Ursua said, will still not attend today's hearing where the third among the accused, Cpl. Keith Silkwood, is scheduled to testify. She will just file this "simple manifestation" before the Makati trial court of Judge Benjamin Pozon, said Ursua.

In an account of the trial before students of the University of the Philippines in Baguio on Wednesday, Ursua said Nicole is "on the verge of concluding that the government is out to sabotage her case" in order to protect the country's relation with the United States.

Should their fears prove to be true, Ursua said their other recourse is to present Nicole's case before the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, which has taken an interest in the proceedings.

Ursua, in her lecture to the UP-Baguio students, said the prosecutor assigned to cross-examine the court witnesses was frequently absent. She said Nicole was irked when the lead prosecutor handed the cross-examination duties to the subordinate they accused of incompetence, after refusing to allow her (Ursua) to handle that part of the proceedings.

"*Kung* four days a week *ang* hearing *namin, mabuti nang um*-attend *siya ng* one day. *Tapos uupo siya, wala siyang papel; hindi siya nag-ta-take ng notes. Nakaupo siya sa likod namin parang dueless siya sa nangyayari* (We would be lucky if he shows up to attend one session out of four in a week. He doesn't take notes. He sits behind us and appears clueless about the proceedings)," she said.

"I can say this to you because that's the truth. I swear," Ursua told the students.

She said allowing a private lawyer to take over from a government prosecutor would be irregular in most cases.

Ursua said Nicole had preferred that government replace all the prosecutors except for government lawyer Hazel Valdez, but she decided on Tuesday night to push for "a clean slate instead." *With reports from Christine O. Avendano, Tarra V. Quismundo, and Vincent Cabreza of Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Senate confident of SC vindication; so is PCGG

By TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa

SENATORS ARE CONFIDENT THE Supreme Court will uphold the Senate's authority to arrest defiant executive branch officials at the hearing today of the habeas corpus petition of the Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio.

Sen. Joker Arroyo will argue the Senate case against Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura who is representing the PCGG.

Sabio, who was arrested and detained last week by the Senate for declining to appear at an inquiry into supposed losses of sequestered corporations, similarly expressed confidence that the high court would affirm his position that Executive Order No. 1 was still a valid law.

EO 1, issued by President Aquino in February 1986, grants PCGG officials immunity from testifying in legislative, judicial and administrative proceedings.

Sabio, who was released from Senate detention for 24 hours the other day to undergo a checkup at the Makati Medical Center, was escorted back to the Senate yesterday.

Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. maintained that the Senate has the power to cite for contempt and order the arrest of officials who defy its summonses as happened in Sabio's case.

"We have our rules, we follow our rules," he said.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said he was optimistic the high court would repeal the part of EO 1 pertaining to the immunity of PCGG officials.

'Wise court'

"It's a wise court. And I think that they know the Constitution very well," he said.

"I have no doubt in my mind about the integrity of the Supreme Court in this issue. I'm sure the Supreme Court is going to do the right thing," said Sen. Richard Gordon.

A fresh-looking Sabio, 70, was just as confident about the strength of the PCGG position.

"I feel fine and I'm ready for the oral arguments," he said, adding that he had no doubt the SC would uphold the PCGG.

Sabio said that while Nachura would be arguing the PCGG case, he would be discussing the issue that concerned his personal liberty. The Solgen's Office last week filed a petition before the SC to stop the Senate hearings.

The Senate committees on government corporations and public services cited for direct contempt and ordered the arrest of Sabio, four PCGG commissioners and five executives of the Philippine Holdings Corp. last Sept. 11 after they thrice skipped the hearings.

Facing arrest are PCGG commissioners Ricardo Abcede, Nicasio Conti, Tereso Javier and Narciso Nario and PHC executives Benito Araneta, chair; Philip Brodett, director/VP; Manuel Andal, treasurer, Julio Jalandoni and Luis Lokin, directors.

Gordon and Enrile claimed that Conti and Nario had sent surrender feelers. Despite this, Gordon said he would have the arrest orders served on the commissioners, particularly Abcede "who keeps granting interviews and hurling allegations against the Senate."

Why not abolish Senate?

By Alcuin Papa

INSTEAD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government, why not abolish the Senate instead?

This was the reaction of PCGG Commissioners Ricardo Abcede and Nicacio Conti to opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's move to revive a bill proposing the abolition of the commission that was formed to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, his family and his cronies.

"It's really up to Congress. I don't want to cling to any position. But let us compare our records. Maybe it is the Senate that should be abolished, not the PCGG," Abcede said.

Conti pointed out that since it was established in 1986, the PCGG has remitted around P60 billion to the National Treasury.

He said that during the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the PCGG recovered P35 billion, or more than half of the total amount recovered since 1986.

The PCGG also won a string of vital cases against the Marcoses and their cronies, including those on the Swiss accounts, the coconut levy fund, and the disputed shares of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., he said.

By comparison, Abcede said that out of 2,200 bills filed by the present Senate, only nine have been passed into law.

"How dismal can you get? There are endless investigations supposedly in aid of legislation instead of meaningful legislation to uplift our country," he said.

He also cited a statement of Sen. Edgardo Angara that the present Senate was "the least productive in the last 20 years."

The PCGG performs a vital task "going against powerful and even dangerous people. We are small and simple public servants doing what is right," Abcede said.

He pointed out that it has a long list of accomplishments achieved with a meager budget, "smaller than the pork barrel of any legislator." *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

Noli, US envoy seeking end to human trafficking

THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON Human Trafficking began yesterday to tackle one of the 21st century's ugliest secrets: the thriving international slave trade in which Filipinos—mostly women and children—are among its top victims.

In his keynote address opening the three-day conference at the Manila Pavilion Hotel, Vice President Noli de Castro urged national and local officials to be more aggressive in addressing human trafficking, the most lucrative illicit activity in the world next to drugs and arms smuggling.

US Ambassador Kristie Kenny, in her own remarks to the gathering of government and non-government leaders, said that the problem "concerns people, millions of them every year, who are sold and coerced into slavery with no voice of their own. It is up to all of us to be that voice."

Many of the victims come from India, Mexico and the Philippines, the top three sources of migrant workers worldwide.

De Castro said overseas Filipino victims are usually undocumented nationals who gain entry into other countries using visitor's visas and end up working in sex dens or other establishments under debt slavery conditions. Some are legally processed as overseas workers but are victimized through violations of their original contracts, he added.

De Castro, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), said human trafficking now affects an estimated 800,000 to 900,000 victims. Syndicates have become increasingly brazen and sophisticated.

De Castro said the Philippines has been making some headway in addressing the problem. The country was recently removed from the US watchlist in the 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

"Our removal from the watchlist is a positive indication that while the country has not yet fully complied with the minimum international standards, significant efforts to do so are being actively pursued," De Castro said. He cited the passage and implementation of Republic Act 9298, or the law against trafficking of persons.

A draft national strategy action plan by the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking is a good start to combat this problem, said De Castro. He also asked local government leaders to pass ordinances to combat the problem and support the victims.

The conference, called by the Philippine Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, is supported by the US Agency for International Development, Unicef, The Asia Foundation, PLAN Philippines and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Plinky, ex-lover settle custody fight

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THESE ESTRANGED lovers have reached an agreement over the raising of their two-year-old son.

"We have agreed to raise our son as friends," Negrense lawyer Magsi Peña, the ex-partner of fitness expert Marie Roxanne "Plinky" Recto, said on Tuesday.

Peña and Recto spent that day with their son, who marked his second birthday with a party for his classmates in nursery school.

Parents and son were also together at a hotel in Bacolod City.

The four-year relationship of Peña and Recto ended in June last year, with each filing numerous charges before various courts against the other.

On Jan. 3, Bago City Judge Henry Trocino issued a temporary protection order that granted Peña custody of the boy.

On Tuesday, it looked as if the parents were ready to put their legal battles behind them.

"We have agreed to stop fighting and to help each other raise our son together as friends, with no one having the advantage over the other," Peña said.

"Our son is growing up and is becoming more aware [of the situation]. We have to fulfill our obligation to him and stop fighting," he said, adding that it was only the lawyers who were making money from their legal skirmishes.

Recto, who said she had missed her son, spent time playing with him yesterday.

"My son is two and looking good and I am blessed," she said. "It's a good day. I saw my son."

Miriam hits Pia for sitting on Poro Pt. resolution

SLAMMING SEN. PIA CAYETANO for not acting on her resolution seeking an investigation of the Poro Point controversy, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago asked that the investigation be transferred to another committee.

Santiago put her feelings on the record, in the form of Senate Resolution 563 which asks the Senate committee on labor chaired by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada to take over the issue originally given to the environment committee headed by Cayetano.

Santiago noted that "from the time of the first reading—Aug. 14—up to the present, or over five weeks now, the committee on environment has failed, despite repeated reminders, to set a date for public hearing."

She said "national interest requires early public hearing of the issue, which has caused the virtual closure of the Poro Point International Seaport for some two months now, thus throwing out of work the seaport and workers of the locators."

Santiago wants an investigation on the "unconstitutional, illegal and immoral means" employed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippine National Police and the Coast Guard in taking over control of the Poro Point from its private operator.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, has denied allegations he was behind the government takeover. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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Cristina Romualdez

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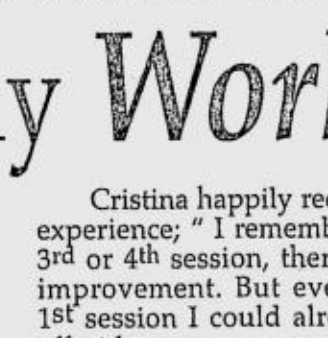
Cristina happily recalls her IPL experience; " I remember after the 3rd or 4th session, there was a big improvement. But even after the 1st session I could already see an effect because my pores tightened. Somebody told me my skin was glowing...and this was right after an IPL treatment! The best thing about it is there's no downtime. Since I like going to the beach and out of town, I'm always exposed to the sun. That's why I go for IPL treatments after an outing. I'm really happy with it!"

Another fan of IPL is actress/interior design consultant Carmi Martin. She happily relates: "I used to have an uneven skin tone because of pigmentation and freckles. After IPL, my skintone became even! In the past I'd always have to wear make-up because I was afraid to let people see me without it. Now, since I love going to Boracay, I can enjoy the sun and sea make-up free!"


Carmi Martin

Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

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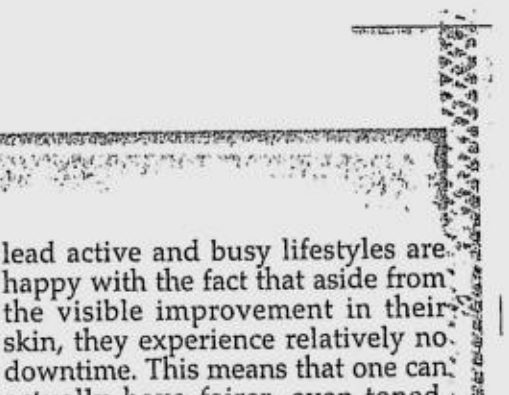
Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo

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ORDER OF LAKANDULA
President Macapagal-Arroyo confers on Sadako Ogata, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Order of Lakandula, Maringal na Pinuno, during yesterday's courtesy call on the President at Malacañang's Music Room. Japan is the Philippines' biggest official development assistance partner. LYN RILLON

PRC, NBI execs show up at Senate probe of test leak

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FOUR OFFICIALS from the Professional Regulation Commission and the National Bureau of Investigation escaped arrest yesterday by showing up at the Senate investigation into the cheating scandal in the 2006 nursing licensure examinations.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon threatened to have the officials—PRC chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero and commissioners Renato Valdecantos and Avelina de la Rea, and the NBI anti-fraud and computer crimes division chief, Elfren Meneses Jr.—arrested if they did not show up at yesterday's hearing.

The four earlier invoked Memorandum Circular 108 in refusing to attend the Senate committee on civil service investigation.

Biazon and Sen. Richard Gordon, who had sought the inquiry, were quite pleased at the officials' capitulation.

"We're happy to see that there are some public officials who recognize that there is still a Senate that needs to do its job," said Gordon.

The fact that a "big fish" had been arrested and detained in the Senate probably put fear in the hearts of the PRC commissioners, he said.

The chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, Camilo Sabio, was arrested and detained last week for defying the Senate summons to appear in another investigation.

At yesterday's hearing, Rosero said the PRC decision not to order a reexamination was final, and also justified the decision to allow the licensing of the board passers despite an ongoing NBI investigation.

Meneses reported that the NBI had recommended the filing of charges against Anesia Dionisio and Virginia Madeja, the two members of the Board of Nursing who are alleged to have been the source of the leaked test questions.

He said the NBI investigated 24 personalities and prepared a 1,267-page report into the controversy that has tarnished the reputation of the country's nursing profession.

Correction

IN THE SEPT. 20 ISSUE, A STORY ON Page A2 — "Water rates take a plunge"—misstated that the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System is set to approve Manila Water Company's proposed rate adjustment "from 16 centavos to 24 centavos per cubic meter or a drop of eight centavos." Manila Water actually proposed to reduce water rates to 16 centavos from 24 centavos per cubic meter.

Sir Ton R. Agustin

Herbal Scientist & Inventor from Tarlac City is also the author of five bestselling books, "The Cancer Survivor Stories", "Breakthrough in Cancer Cure", "Master of the Trade", "Ang Ebanghelyo ng Super Galing na Negosyante & Super Galing na Tindero/Tindera". Daily Seminars on life threatening diseases, how to combat cancers and other diseases, everybody is welcome. Call this Cell No. 0920-9100806

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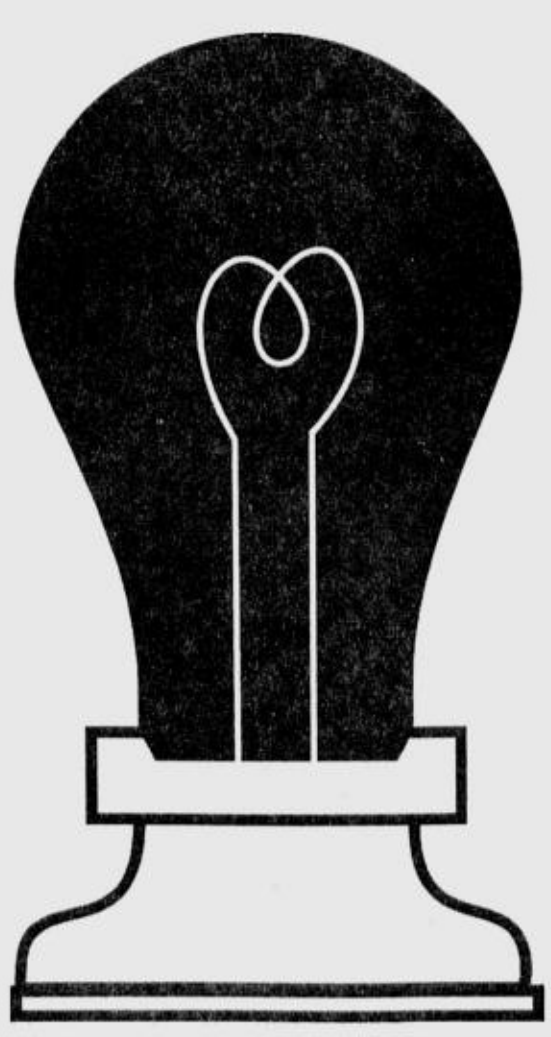

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Satur, AFP chief face off at budget hearing

By Philip C. Tubeza

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF Staff Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday challenged Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo to denounce the communist New People's Army after the two faced each other at a congressional budget hearing.

"I have the personal belief that if we are indeed respectable officials of the land, then we must have the courage to denounce the NPA for their terrorism and violence," Esperon told Ocampo during the budget hearing of the Department of National Defense.

"If you cannot denounce the NPA then that could probably mean that you are sympathetic to them," he added to which Ocampo retorted: "Is that a crime?"

"I cannot answer that," Esperon said. "Maybe I should let that be answered by this body or the honorable representation from Bayan Muna."

Grilled about the extra-judicial killings of political activists, Esperon said there were members of legal leftist organizations who are active in the communist movement.

Under questioning from Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, Esperon said there were no "enemies of the state" in Congress since no lawmaker had taken up arms against the government.

"As I see it, not yet. As members of the party-list, they have not been taking up arms against the state. Not yet, your honor," Esperon said.

Pressed on what he meant, the general said: "I can only speak from the time that ends when I say these words. I don't know what will happen next."

ESPERON

OCAMPO

Esperon said that while there were no "enemies of the state" in Congress "yet"—he said Congress had a clean bill of health "as of now"—its members should denounce groups that have taken up arms against the government.

Ocampo said that he had never denied that he was once a member of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines but he criticized the armed forces, the police, and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzalez for linking him to the communist insurgency up to now.

He said this allegation should stop since it could be behind the rash of killings of Bayan Muna members.

"It gives me great worry and I have to express this, Mr. Secretary, Gen Esperon," said Ocampo, his voice growing stronger.

"Because my people, our people, have been killed as you say, systematically...116 over the last five years."

"I do not deny and I have never denied that I was a member of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines up to the time I was arrested in 1976. After that, I was no longer," Ocampo said.

"It is not far-fetched and I complain that as 'enemies of the state,' we would be targets of assassination. You could not blame us when looking at the circumstances we have to pinpoint to the AFP as at least responsible," he said.

Ocampo also scored the AFP for not imposing disciplinary actions on then Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan for openly encouraging "people to take the law into their own hands."

"He has never been reprimanded for saying that. Is this the kind of tolerance or discipline that the AFP is practicing just because General Palparan is delivering the goods?" Ocampo said.

But Esperon said the armed forces had "institutionalized" the teaching of human rights to its soldiers since 1995.

He also said there were members of underground organizations who are "leading figures in legal organizations."

'Who you calling a communist?'

By Blanche S. Rivera

AN INDIGNANT KILUSANG MAGBUBUKID ng Pilipinas yesterday threatened to file a libel suit against a pro-Arroyo administration group that had branded the farmers' organization as a "communist front."

KMP legal counsel Jobert Pahilga said the Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy (Anad) media release, which appeared in the INQUIRER yesterday branding the KMP as a communist group, was not only unwarranted but defamatory.

"Anad's statement pertaining to the KMP as a communist front is unwarranted and utterly defamatory. We are contemplating on filing libel charges against the group," Pahilga said in a statement.

Pahilga said Anad was not only a supporter of the Arroyo administration but also a mouthpiece of the military. "They have neither the competence nor the credibility to question the farmers' filing of the human rights complaint with the United Nations," he said.

Anad had slammed the filing of 12 separate complaints of human rights violations against President Macapagal-Arroyo, retired Army Gen. Jovito Palparan and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, before the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Esperon hits snag at CA

A MOVE BY SOME LAWMAKERS TO RUSH the confirmation of Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon's promotion before the Commission on Appointments backfired yesterday after opposition senators stuck to their earlier motion to grill him over his role in the "Hello Garci" tape scandal.

Members of the CA committee on defense approved Esperon's appointment and were about to get this approved at the plenary without hitches until opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, who had made reservations to further grill him at a future date, showed up.

Esperon was named AFP chief in July, a position with the rank of a four-star general, but the body decided to tackle first his appointment to the grade of lieutenant-general, a rank for which he has not been confirmed.

"The questions will be raised in the plenary that is as far as his promotion to three-star general is concerned. This is a minor issue," Senate President Manuel "Manny" Villar Jr., CA chair, told some reporters after the plenary session. *TJ Burgonio*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 21, 2006
Matthew, Apostle

1st Reading: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13
Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus moved on, he saw a man named Matthew at his seat in the custom-house, and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. Now it happened, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, "Why is it that your master eats with those sinners and tax collectors?"

When Jesus heard this he said, "Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary

Matthew: tax collector turned evangelist, bringer of Good News in word spoken and written; martyr, giving as his last word in service of the truth—his own life. That was his share of grace.

What is ours? Who are we and what are we engaged in as a way of life? How do we need to turn so that we too are bringers of good news in word and deed? We are the sick that have been touched by water and word and bread. Do we live in gratitude with mercy and sacrifice on behalf of others now?

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'Pag may layunin, malayo ang mararating

Ipinakikilala ang mga Shell 'Yan ang Pinoy Awardees.

Sa panahon ngayon ng kawalan ng pag-asa at lalong humihirap na buhay, naglunsad ang Shell ng programang naglalayong hanapin at bigyan ng nararapat na parangal ang limang Pinoy na magsisilbing inspirasyon sa ating lahat. Limang Pinoy na tinulak ng kani-kanilang layunin sa buhay upang lampasan ang lahat ng hadlang na dumating. Limang Pinoy na malayo ang narating.

Si Joseph Ferrer, isang jeepney driver na napagtapos ng kolehiyo ang dalawang anak. Si Ester Tana na fish vendor na itinaguyod ang pamilya at nagpatayo ng kapilya sa kanilang barangay. Si Kapitan Jun Virata na pinaunlad ang Barangay Don Bosco sa Parañaque hanggang sa naging Cleanest Barangay in Parañaque. Si Token Lizares na kumakanta sa mga concerts for charity na siya rin ang nagsagawa. At si Mian Añover na inampon at pinaunlad ang Sitio Langgam sa Laguna. Lahat may layunin, lahat malayo ang narating.

Hindi sila sikat. Hindi sila artista. Hindi niyo sila kilala. Ordinaryong mamamayan lang sila pero sila'y halimbawa ng layo ng maaabot ng kahit sino basta tapat sa iisang layunin sa buhay. Layunin ng Shell na tulad nila, malayo ang marating n'yo.

Marcos' repressive laws still govern us

From page A1

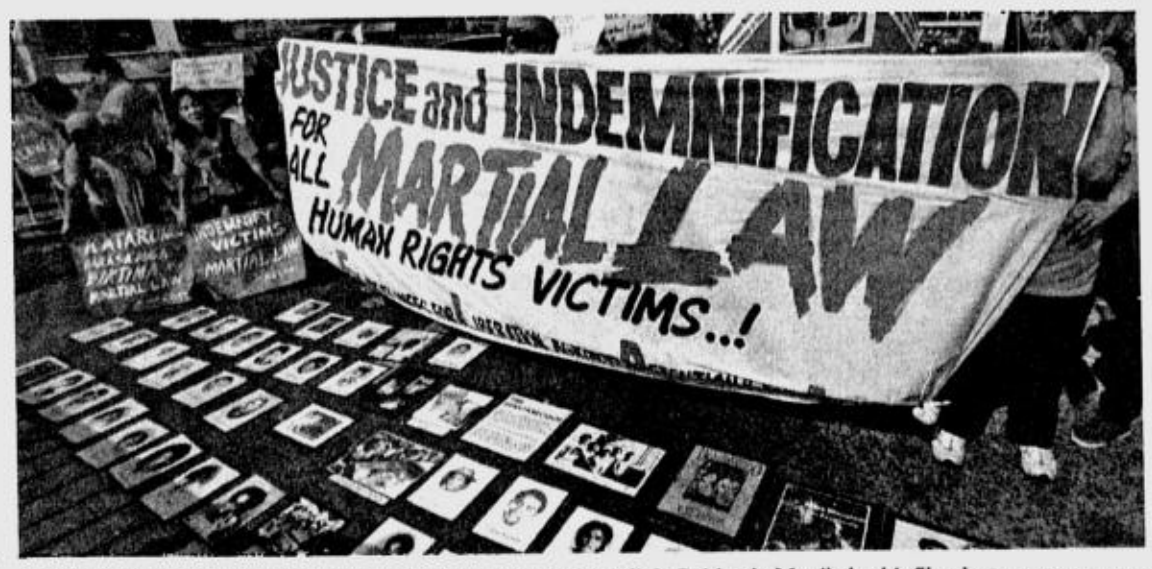
The provisional Constitution also recognized and even incorporated some provisions of Marcos' 1973 Constitution.

These provisions effectively legitimized the thousands of Marcos decrees, letters of instruction and other issuances that were then existing.

These same provisions paved the way for the transitory provisions of the 1987 Constitution to provide, in Section 3, that "all existing laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, letters of instruction and other executive issuances not inconsistent with this Constitution shall remain operative until amended, repealed or revoked."

While many of those opposed to the Marcos regime called for a sweeping repeal of all Marcos laws, those in favor of a more conservative approach prevailed. Twenty years after Marcos fled the country, a good number of his repressive laws are still in force. To add insult to injury, some all-important judicial doctrines adopted by the Marcos-controlled Supreme Court are still in effect.

No one really knows how many presidential decrees, letters of instruction, executive orders, proclamations and the like were issued by Marcos. There were some that he kept tucked away, his secret decrees, that he brought out only as needed. No one, to my knowledge, has made a definitive study of how many Marcos laws are still in force today.



HUMAN Rights victims of martial law stage protest at Mendiola Bridge in Manila in this file photo. INQUIRER PHOTO

Underbelly of legal system

The following are a sampling, rather quickly compiled, of what lies inside the underbelly of our legal system.

• **Presidential Decree No. 1177**, the "Budget Reform Decree of 1977." This controversial decree is what allows the executive department to bypass Congress when it comes to appropriations for debt servicing.

PD 1177 provides that any appropriation for the payment of the Philippine government's debt is deemed automatically appropriated. This means that Congress has no say in the matter, despite the constitutional power exclusively vested in Congress to make appropriations.

• **Presidential Decree No. 442**, the Labor Code of the Philippines. While many parts of the Labor Code have been amended, the provisions crafted by Marcos on the assumption of jurisdiction by the labor secretary and his power to stop strikes are still in force.

• **Presidential Decree No. 133**, prescribing a heavy penalty for the theft of any material, spare part, product or article by employees and laborers. This law imposes the penalty of "imprisonment ranging from prision correccional to prision mayor." This means that the penalty can range from a minimum of six months and one day to a maximum of 12 years.

• **Presidential Decree No. 1866** on illegal possession of firearms and explosives. While the penalties have been reduced by later amendments, and while the law has a laudable purpose, this law remains the most commonly used charge against perceived enemies of the state to justify their warrantless arrest and detention.

The offense is relatively easy to prove in court, and hard for a defendant to rebut.

• **Batas Pambansa No. 880**, the Public Assemblies Act

This law, enacted by the Marcos-era legislature, was recently cited by the Supreme Court in the calibrated preemptive response case filed against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Marcos-controlled Supreme Court also enunciated certain highly dubious judicial doctrines that remain in the books to this day.

Two cases that stand out, on the right to liberty, are:

• **The Garcia-Padilla ruling**, reiterated in the Umil v. Ramos cases, where the high court upheld what would otherwise be illegal warrantless arrests of suspected subversives on the ground that they were committing "continuing offenses."

• **The Ilagan v. Enrile ruling**, in which the Supreme Court held that once a charge or information was filed in court, the writ of habeas corpus could no longer be invoked by a petitioner to secure his liberty from an illegal warrantless arrest.

Many Filipinos have gone to jail—and stayed there for extended periods of time—only to have the cases against them eventually dismissed.

Unable to gain liberty because of these rulings, they languish in jail while the wheels of our judicial system process the case at their usual snail's pace. Many more will suffer the same fate as long as these rulings are not overturned or abandoned.

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Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

A. Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby notified of the panel interview of the following forty-one (41) applicants for four (4) positions of Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals at the Division Hearing Room, Ground Flr., New Supreme Court Building.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
1. ACOSTA, Francisco P.
2. AGLORO, Guillermo P.
3. BABARAN, Raul V.
4. BARINAGA, Sylvia Katherine L.
5. BONIFACIO, Rodolfo R.
6. BULIYAT, Francis A.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26, 2006
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
1. CAÑETE, Ulric R.
2. CHUA, Anita G.
3. DOMINGO, Lorna N.
4. DUMAYAS, Winlove M.
5. ESPAÑOL, Jose Jr. M.
6. FABROS, Amelia A.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27, 2006
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
1. FAMADOR, Joel M.
2. FRANCISCO, Renato C.
3. GAERLAN, Samuel H.
4. GALVEZ, Danilo P.
5. GANAY, Clifton U.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
1. GARRIDO, Crisostomo L.
2. GARVILLES, Edgar G.
3. ITURRALDE, Philbert I.
4. LAUREA, Emmanuel D.
5. MACABANDO, Paca-Ambung C.
6. MANGOTARA, Mamidiara P.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28, 2006
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
1. NERI, Graciano Jr. B.
2. NIEVES, Wilfredo T.
3. PADERANGA, Sylva G.
4. PAGUICAN, Pelagio S.
5. PAREDES, Meinrado P.
6. PAUIG, Vilma T.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
1. PINTO, Ofelia T.
2. POLOYAPOY, Tirsendo C.
3. QUIAMBAO, Ma. Angelica P.
4. QUIROZ, Alex L.
5. ROQUE, Aida R.
6. SESE, Manuel L.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29, 2006
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
1. SIAYNGCO, Manuel DJ.
2. SUAREZ, Lelli C.
3. SUING, Jose A.
4. TABLIZO, Romeo A.
5. UMALI, Rizalina T.
6. YAP, Marilyn B.

As stated in the amended rule, the interviews shall be conducted in public. The other fifty-five (55) applicants were already interviewed for the same office last March 2006.

B. The JBC also announces the opening, for acceptance of applications, of judicial positions in the following COURTS:

1. RTC Br. 13, Culasi, Antique
2. RTC Brs. 16 & 22, Kabacan, North Cotabato
3. MTC Lal-lo, Cagayan
4. MTC Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao

Applications must be submitted NOT LATER THAN October 21, 2006 to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Floor Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512 Fax No. 552-9598). Applicants must also submit 6 copies of each of the following:

Application Letter
Personal Data Sheet (JBC Form 1 down-loadable from the JBC Website: http://jbc.supremecourt.gov.ph)
Picture (2x2)
Certificate of Good Standing of latest Official Receipt from the IBP National Treasurer
ITR for 2 preceding years
Clearances from NBI, Ombudsman, Office of the Bar Confidant and employer
Transcript of Records
Police Clearance from place of residence
Certificate of Bar Rating

C. The JBC likewise announces that the following are applicants for different judicial positions:

COURT OF APPEALS: – **GUILLEN**, Marissa Macaraig

MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT (MCTC): **(REGION XII)** – **WAO-BUMBARAN, LANAO DEL SUR: ABINAL**, Ottowa B.; **DISALO**, Gamor B.; **MAMUTUK**, Abdul M.; **PIMPING**, Mahadi M.

1st SHARIA' CIRCUIT COURT JOLO, SULU – **ARABANI**, Nimrod I.; **DAUD**, Jurata I.; **GUMBAHALI**, Edimer DC.; **LATIP**, Baser S.; **MACALAWI**, Amer P.; **PANGCOGA**, Haron A.; **TAGORANAO**, Mariam Saidona 2nd SHARIA' CIRCUIT SIASI, SULU – **ABBISI**, Haliki A.; **BOGABONG**, Basit A.; **DAUD**, Jurata I.; **GURO**, Ali P.; **JAMIRI**, Radzma J.; **LATIP**, Baser S.; **MABANING**, Saga D.; **MIPANGA**, Dimapiil T.; **PANGCOGA**, Haron A.; **RASCAL**, Macod D.; **SAMPANG**, Abdurahman II J.; **TAGORANAO**, Mariam Saidona; **TULAWIE**, Lanni L. 6th SHARIA' CIRCUIT COURT LUUK, SULU – **ABBISI**, Haliki A.; **AMILHAMJA**, Ainal-in A.; **ASIRI**, Julamri L.; **ASULA**, Benang T.; **BAHARAN**, Falsal B.; **DAUD**, Jurata I.; **ESCANDAR**, Nur-ain I.; **GURO**, Ali P.; **JAMIRI**, Radzma J.; **MABANING**, Saga D.; **MACADATO**, Macacuna B.; **PANGCOGA**, Haron A.; **TAGORANAO**, Mariam Saidona; **TANJILI**, Remee-Raida S.

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants not later than October 01, 2006 to the JBC Secretariat.

All applicants for all judicial positions must submit to the JBC Secretariat ASAP via fax, mail or e-mail their updated JBC Form 1, current cellphone and landline numbers, and current residence and e-mail addresses.

September 19, 2006.

(Sgd.) MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court &
Ex Officio Secretary

(PDI–Sept. 21, 2006)

'Jueteng' ...

From page A1

Bureau of Immigration.

BI-Naia head supervisor Ferdinand Sampol said Cam was allowed to leave because she was not on the bureau's hold-departure list.

Nevertheless, Sampol said, his staff conducted a "rigid immigration check" on Cam because she was a "popular personality" involved in a sensitive issue.

Also, a certain Sandra Cam was on the hold-departure list but with a different middle name.

"She almost wasn't able to leave because our staff had to double-check her name with the supervisor," Sampol said.

Visa, ticket paid for

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that Cam's visa and plane ticket were paid for by a "government authority" in a Middle Eastern country, which he did not name.

"I know something good will happen to her there," the archbishop said.

Cam has been under the care of Cruz's Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng since her explosive exposé last year linking members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's family to jueteng operations in Bicol.

At a Senate inquiry into the illegal numbers game, Cam said the President's eldest child, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, and her brother-in-law, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, had been receiving protection money.

Cam also claimed that the then Bicol police director, Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, had instructed her to deliver the payoffs to the Arroyos.

The two men denied Cam's allegations.

Cruz said that before her exposé, Cam owned three schools and lived an affluent life with her children.

"All of those were lost when she began her life as a [jueteng witness]. And she began receiving not only death threats but also hefty bribe offers," Cruz said.

"But even if she was in need of money, she turned down those bribes," he said.

Cruz also said that after her exposé, Cam endured "headaches and heartaches" primarily because the government ignored her plight as a jueteng witness.

He said Cam also had to undergo major surgery and deal with the libel case filed against her in Guagua, Pampanga, by the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and her son and brother-in-law.

'Zero funds'

Krusada, which took care of Cam for almost a year, "tried to accommodate and support her," Cruz said. "But we have zero funds, too."

Ultimately, he said, Cam's decision to leave and work abroad was a practical decision any mother would have made for her children.

According to Cruz, Cam once worked as head flight attendant for a fleet of planes owned by a member of the Middle Eastern royalty. But she returned to Manila to be with her children.

"Now, she has to leave them again because she wants to provide for their needs," he said.

Cruz said that while Cam had wept over her predicament, she was in "very high spirits" when she boarded her plane.

"She's fed up with the government, but she told me that the moment she's needed her for her [jueteng] testimony, she will return," he said, adding:

"She's very brave. She's a fighter."

House probes missing ₱244-M Skyway funds

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCE of P244 million in Skyway funds has prompted the opening of yet another congressional investigation.

In the middle of conducting hearings on the soon-to-expire franchise of the Philippine National Construction Corp., the House committee on legislative franchises stumbled by accident into information of supposedly missing funds of the Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp.

Citra, which operates the Skyway that runs from Makati to Bicutan in Taguig, is the joint venture firm formed by the state-owned PNCC and P.T. Citra Lamtoro Gung Persada, Indonesia's premier toll road developer.

Representatives Juan Miguel Zubiri and Rolex Suplico immediately moved to prepare a resolution seeking a separate legislative inquiry into the alleged embezzlement of funds by Citra officials.

In the course of the hearing yesterday, Suplico asked Citra officials to confirm reports that a recent audit had unearthed some P244 million in unauthorized advances released to former Citra president Cezar Quiambao and other private companies that he controlled.

Citra vice president Ramon Borromeo looked stunned but did not deny it.

"He was silent, quiet, mum," said Suplico.

Quiambao, who until September 2004 was Citra president and CEO, gained extensive experience in project finance in Indonesia.

Suplico said there were P150.9 million in advances to BCA, a firm identified with Quiambao; and P18.5 million in advances to Stradec, another Quiambao firm.

Some of the missing funds allegedly went to personal expenses that Quiambao had charged to Stradec and payments for representation and political expenses that had been charged to the Toll Road Concession Right account.

Suplico and Zubiri then decided to file a resolution seeking a separate inquiry to pry open Citra's corporate accounts.

They said it was important for Citra to explain the delay in holding Quiambao accountable for his actions.

Zubiri said it was important that a separate inquiry be conducted as the current one's focus was mainly on the extension of the PNCC's franchise.

"We will try to draft safeguards for other infrastructure firms with government projects," he said.

Suplico said there should be laws banning executives involved in irregular transactions, particularly corporations that have projects with the state, from participating in future bids for government projects.

"While Citra funds are private funds, the anomalies certified by its auditors certainly have a bearing on the implementation of the Skyway project," he said.

He noted that Citra had yet to extend the Skyway to Sucat from Bicutan.

He said that since the government was a Citra shareholder through the PNCC, it was used as a "tool to extort money from Indonesians."

"This will have a bearing on the construction, operation and maintenance of the Skyway," said Suplico.

Besides questioning the diversion of funds, he noted that the recipient companies were also involved in other government projects.

Guimaras housing loans ordered released

VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro yesterday ordered the Pag-ibig Fund to expedite the release of calamity loans to its members in Guimaras Island affected by the recent oil spill.

"This is one way of alleviating the plight of our members, especially from the five affected municipalities of Guimaras—Jordan, Nueva Valencia, San Lorenzo, Sibunag and Buena Vista—who have lost their livelihood," said De Castro, chair of the Pag-ibig Fund Board of Trustees.

Lawyer Romero Quimbo, the Fund's president and CEO, reported that since Aug. 28, 2006, the agency has released a total of P15.51 million in calamity loans, covering 1,173 applications.

He also announced that Pag-ibig officers have gone directly to the calamity-stricken areas to personally give the loan applications to affected members. Members would ordinarily need to travel to Iloilo City to avail of their loans. "That won't be necessary anymore since even the releasing of checks will be done in Guimaras itself," he added.

Under the Fund's Calamity Loan program, a qualified member whose place of residence has been declared under a state of calamity can borrow up to 80 percent of his total savings.

From January to July 2006, the Pag-ibig Fund has released P453.88 million in calamity loans benefiting 26,547 member-borrowers across the country. Guimaras Island has a membership base of 2,581 members.

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Little cause for celebration 34 years after

From page A1

sis since February.

The Bangkok coup, led by the Army Commander in Chief Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin, known to be close to King Bhumibol Adulyadej, whose blessing is crucial to legitimizing military takeovers in Thailand, announced that the Army had taken control "to keep order in the country."

The Army announced that General Sondhi was revoking the country's 1977 Constitution and the formation of a "Council of Administrative Reform" that would oversee constitutional changes before restoring "power to the people" and holding new elections.

The coup marked the return of military intervention in Thai politics since 1992, and ended the longest period (14 years) of democracy in Thailand, against a history of coup d'etats since the 1920s. It took place just as liberal democratic academics in the West had been optimistic over the long-term stability of democracy in Thailand.

The Bangkok coup was clearly a setback for democratization in Southeast Asia. It gives further evidence of the retreat since the 1980s of democracy in the region, including the Philippines, which in recent years have flagged tendencies toward authoritarianism.

Not a fluke

The return of the coups in Bangkok cannot be discounted as a fluke. It could serve as an inspiration for new cycle of coups in the region.

The Philippines, which has history of nearly a dozen coup attempts since 1986, cannot be immune from this contagion. It would be disastrous for any Philippine government to dismiss the Bangkok coup out of hand, and to be complacent with the record of failed coup attempts of the past 20 years.

The Philippines is in the middle of the paradox that it has a political leadership that is the least democratically inclined—to put it mildly—since the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship.

Crisis of legitimacy

Only in February, President Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed a state of national emergency that emulated Marcos' imposition of martial law on Sept. 21, 1972, though not as draconian, but, just the same, put the country under a regime shored up by the military and police. This gives an ironic twist to the remembrance of the martial law anniversary today.

The Arroyo administration is embroiled in a severe crisis of political legitimacy. It has increasingly become dependent on police and military support for political survival against challenges to cut short its term coming from the streets and from impeachment moves in Congress, compounded by coup attempts.

The Philippine military is divided in its loyalty. As such, it is an uncertain element. This is a cause for worry. The President has launched an "all-out war" on the communist insurgency as an issue to galvanize solid military and police support for her embattled administration.

As a consequence, Ms Arroyo has lost control of policy on the execution of the war on insurgency. The extreme right of the military has engaged in antidemocratic practices that have installed what has been denounced as a "reign of terror" in high insurgency areas. There, scores of political activists, associated with legal left, have been reported to have been killed in extrajudicial executions, at the hands of anonymous death squads.

These developments, together with the fallback on the use of emergency powers to repel challenges from the nonmilitary sector and the cyclical recurrence of coup attempts, all form the political environment in which the decline of Philippine democracy is taking place.

GMA not in control

Two years before the declaration of martial law in 1972, the country was in turmoil. It was seriously threatened by a resurgent communist rebellion and the lawless violence of the provincial warlords. Marcos took advantage of this tumult to declare martial law as a justification to save the country from lawlessness and anarchy. These were ideal conditions for a power grab.

But the military was solidly behind him. So, he made a coup on his government. But Ms Arroyo is not in control of the military. If there's a force that can stage a coup—it is not Ms Arroyo.

The vacuum of civilian power is a tempting environment for a Thailand-type move. We can't take comfort in the fact that opinion polls show Filipinos abhor coups. When the soldiers move, they don't think about opinion polls.

In 1972, the rest of Southeast Asia was swept by the authoritarian wave. The Philippines broke ranks with the democracies. More than three decades after, it is ready to march in step to the drumbeat of democracy in retreat in Asia.

Days of paranoia, nights of unease

From page A1

signs that something big and terrible was about to happen. The headquarters of mass organizations were being raided and shut down, and a few little-known militants had been picked up.

I had been writing articles critical of the Marcos administration and sympathetic to what has come to be known as the parliament of the streets. And I was a member of an activist writers' organization called Paksa, or Panulat para sa Kaunlaran ng Sambayanan (Literature for the People's Progress).

'Sidestep'

When the raids started, friends advised me to "sidestep"—meaning: Don't go home for a while, don't go to work, stay away from your usual hangouts.

That was why I was temporarily staying with a relative the day newspapers failed to come out, the day radio played nothing but music, the day television ran interminable cartoons, interrupted only by the periodic appearance of the press secretary advising viewers to stand by for an official announcement that Malacañang would soon be making.

It wasn't the first time I had "sidestepped." I had done the same thing when the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus was suspended following the Plaza Miranda bombing in 1971. That was a difficult decision to make because I had just been married for eight months and my wife was pregnant. But I soon found out that I was not on the wanted list—and sheepishly went back home and back to work.

'To save the republic'

This time around, however, there would be no work to go back to. Before the long day of Sept. 23 ended, Marcos came out on television to announce that he had declared martial law "to save the republic and reform our society."

By then, newspaper and magazine offices and printing presses had been shut down, radio and television stations had been occupied, and hundreds of opposition politicians, student activists, labor leaders, peasant organizers, and fellow journalists had been arrested and thrown into military detention camps.

At first, I thought I was in the clear again. I learned from back channels that no military troops had stormed into the offices and printing presses of the Asia-Philippines Leader, the year-old weekly magazine of which I was, at 27, a senior editor.

And no one had come looking for me at my in-laws' Quezon City house, where I lived with my wife and our newborn son.

But the declaration of martial law had fallen on a weekend. Besides, the Leader was a weekly and had a small circulation, so it was not until the next working day that the troops got around to raiding it and stopping the presses from running the next issue.

Going UG

As for me, it turned out that military intelligence had not updated my dossier. The military unit that had orders to arrest me went looking for me in my mother's house in Pateros, where I no longer lived.

Since I was on the wanted list this time, I decided to take leave of my wife and newborn son to go underground, or UG, where I worked with a group of college editors, putting out mimeographed *samizdat* newspapers.

UG life consisted of days of paranoia and nights of unease.

Every time the ice cream vendor, with his little bell, lingered too long outside our house, we stopped banging on our Jurassic-age portable typewriters and peered out to make sure he didn't look like a military agent doing surveillance work.

Every time one of us laughed too long and too loud, we hushed her up, fearing that her distinctive laughter would give us away.

Whenever we had to go out of the house, to meet with other people or just to go marketing, we were never sure we would make it back alive.

We had nightmares over the news stories we were writing in our little newspaper, about friends and comrades whose heads were pushed into excrement-filled toilet bowls and whose balls were subjected to electric shocks while being tortured, or whose skulls had been cracked open with rifle butts and whose brains were then scooped out, or whose bodies were dragged down dirt roads and then dumped into unmarked graves that other friends and comrades had been made to dig.

I got caught about a year and a half later, got my share of torture, and spent nearly two years in a Camp Crame detention area.

But that is another story.

FROM A BOOK 'A NATION REBORN'

ANTIRIOT police collar a demonstrator as government tightens its iron fist in the days before martial law.

Fake . . .

From page A1

9 p.m. President Ferdinand Marcos calls the attack on Enrile "the last straw," signs Proclamation No. 1081, which puts the entire country under martial law.

The actual document was dated Sept. 21. Due to his "obsession" with numerology, Marcos had wanted the fateful date to be divisible by his lucky number 7. When Proclamation No. 1081 was actually signed it is still the subject of debate. Other accounts say it was signed on Sept. 17.

In accordance with the proclamation, Marcos would rule by decree, general order and letter of instruction, functioning both as President and Congress.

Midnight. First on the list to be arrested is opposition Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. He is arrested at the Hilton Hotel in Manila by members of the military led by Col. Romeo Gatan. Aquino had been discussing tariff matters with colleagues when invited to "step outside" the hotel. Upon returning to the group, he says, "I'm sorry I can't address the meeting. I'm being arrested."

Earlier, on Sept. 13, Aquino exposed "Oplan Sagittarius," said to be a blueprint for martial law, in Congress.

Sept. 23 (Saturday)

1 a.m. to 4 a.m. Marcos orders his political opponents rounded up, all schools closed and all communications and public utilities placed under government control.

Without warning, the military seize and seal media establishments, walking into their offices and posting announcements that say, "This Building is Closed and Sealed and Placed Under Military Control." They also order the staffers to leave.

1 a.m. Sen. Jose Diokno is arrested at his residence.

2 a.m. Sen. Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo is arrested.

4 a.m. By dawn, the Camp Crame gymnasium is starting to get crowded with the 100 of the 400 listed subversives already rounded up. The list of detainees included Ramon Mitra and Sergio Osmeña Jr., businessman Eugenio Lopez Jr., teacher Etta Rosales, lawyer Haydee Yorac, journalist Amando Doronila, and other prominent Marcos opponents, outspoken journalists, labor union organizers and delegates to the 1971 Constitutional Convention.

6 a.m. Radios are silent, television sets are blank and newspapers are off the streets as nation wakes.

Journalists remember the first months of martial law as among the darkest. Airline flights are suspended indefinitely and overseas telephone operators refuse to accept incoming calls. There is no immediate official announcement, but news about what had happened while the nation was sleeping spreads like wildfire.

Rumors circulate that Senator Aquino's major crime was his opposition to Marcos, and that declaring martial law was a way for the President to stay in office beyond the constitutional limit of two terms.

3 p.m. Press Secretary Francisco Tatad goes on air over television and radio for the first time and the country comes to know of Proclamation No. 1081.

7 p.m. Marcos himself goes on air for the formal announcement of the proclamation. He imposes curfew and bans public demonstrations. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

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Lot #	Qty.	U/I	Items to Bid	Approved Budget Cost (ABC)
LOT I	2	un	Laser Speed Gun	P 600,000.00
LOT II	50	ea	Weed eater / Grass Cutter (Heavy Duty)	P 800,000.00
LOT III	16 5 1	un un un	Communication Equipment: Handheld Radio Transceivers Radio Transceivers (marino band, 50 w) Radio base with whip antenna (aviation band)	P 962,000.00
LOT IV	1	un	Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS), 15 KVA	P 970,000.00
LOT V	2	un	Dental Chairs	P 1,000,000.00
LOT VI	3	un	Outboard Motor Engine (OBM) 2 ea. 150 HP., 4 stroke & 1 ea. 115 HP, 4 stroke	P 1,550,000.00
LOT VII	1	un	Voice Logger	P 3,000,000.00
LOT VIII	 41 52	 un un	Services and Materials for the Supply and Installation of Air-Conditioning Units Window Type Split Type	P 4,002,790.00

Prospective bidders must be manufacturers or authorized distributors of the above-mentioned equipments for bidding, must have proof of completion for the delivery of the same and related project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 27, 28 & 29, 2006 Wednesday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	BAC Secretariat (Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255 Barryman Road, SBFZ
2. Pre-Bid Conference	October 4, 2006 Wednesday 2:00 p.m.	PPMD Conference Room Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255 Barryman Road, SBFZ
3. Submission / Opening of Bids	October 18, 2006, Wednesday **9:00 a.m.** Lot I, II, III & IV **2:00 p.m.** Lot V, VI, VII, VIII	Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P1,000.00** to the SBMA Treasury Dept. Bldg. 229, Barryman Road, SBFZ.

The SBMA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALVARADO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – September 21, 2006)

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E-mail Address: luelco_apo@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO BID

Please be informed that we are in need of Metering Instrument/Equipment for our distribution feeders of our 10 MVA Power Transformer located at Aringay, La Union. Likewise, it is emphasizes here that the aforementioned items should be brand new and complied with NEMA, NEA & PEC standard, Materials specification and its capacity are hereby stated below, to witness;

MATERIAL SPECIFICATION/DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
a) Current Transformer Butyl molded & outdoor type Rating Capacity (preferably USA brand), 100/500A:5A	9 units
b) Potential Transformer Butyl molded and outdoor type, (preferably U.S. brand) 70:1 Ratio	9 units

Deadline of submission of Bids would be on September 26, 2006.

Please get in touch with the undersigned or any members of the PBAC for more details and information you will need to know.

Our distribution system is on the process of rehabilitation and system improvement as part of our compliance to the distribution code of the RA 9136. In view of these issue, we are inviting to submit your bid for the items specified herein below and to witness:

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION/SPECIFICATION:

a) Oil Circuit Recloser, Single Phase 15 KV, 115 kv BIL, 100 Amp. 200 Amp, 400 Amp, Minimum Trip Current, 2A, 2B, Comb., 60 cycle, Rated at 600 A.
b) Oil Circuit Recloser, 3-Phase, Minimum Trip Current, 200A.
c) Shunt Capacitor Rated @ 15 kv, 50 KVAR, 100 KVAR, 200 KVAR.
d) Power Fuse Rated @ 69 KV, SMD, 50A, 75A, 100 Amp.
e) Power Fuse Rated @ 15 KV, SMD, 20A, 40A.
f) Fuse Cut-out with Lightning Arrester Combination Rated @ 9 KV, 12 KV, Maximum of 400 Amp.

Deadline of submission of bids will be on October 2, 2006.

Please get in touch with the undersigned or any member of the PBAC for more details and information regarding the above matter.

The newly organized PBAC member of LUELCO has decided to renew prices of construction materials due to the effect of the 12% VAT imposed by the BIR and the appreciation of peso value in the world market today.

In this connection, you are hereby invited to submit your bid on or before September 30, 2006 on specific items mentioned below.

MATERIALS DESCRIPTION:

I. **Concrete Poles (Hollow & Round Type)**
25' Pole 40' Pole
30' Pole 45' Pole
35' Pole 50' Pole

II. **Wooden Pole (Creosoted & Tannalized)**
25' Pole 40' Pole
30' Pole 45' Pole
35' Pole

III. **Distribution Transformer (7.62/13.2y KV - 220/120/480V)**
15 KVA 50 KVA
25 KVA 75 KVA
37.5 KVA 100 KVA

IV. **Distribution Cables (Bare & Insulated)**
#2 ACSR to #4/0 ACSR

V. **Crossarms (Steel & Wood)**
4" x 5" x8'
4" x 5" x10'

VI. **All Line Hardwares/Insulators Rated at 15 KV**

Interested parties are required to submit their company profile and their latest financial statement. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the members of the PBAC for more inquries you would want to be informed.

Please be guided accordingly.

(Sgd.) **ELMO B. FAMA**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 21, 2006)

Compensation for Marcos victims expected in 6 months

By Alcuin Papa

VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIolations during the Marcos regime are expected to get their compensation from a United States court in six months, their lawyer said on the eve of the 34th anniversary of the declaration of martial law.

But the Presidential Commission on Good Government said yesterday it would appeal the US federal court ruling.

Lawyer Rod Domingo Jr. said his clients received formal notice on Monday that the US 9th District Circuit Court of Appeals threw out the Philippine government's motion to rehear the case on Judge Manuel Real's initial award of $35 million to the victims.

Real is the judge of the US District Court in Hawaii who awarded $2 billion to the Marcos victims in 1995.

The $35 million would come from an account with New York brokerage firm Merrill Lynch that former strongman Ferdinand Marcos opened in 1972 with a $2-million deposit under the Arelma Foundation.

Domingo said each of the 9,539 victims would get an initial award of $2,000 from a dummy Marcos account.

The US 9th District Court said the money, while only a small part of the $2-billion award would have "symbolic significance" and have monetary meaning for the poorest of the claimants.

In a phone interview from his hospital room in Makati City, PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio said: "We will instruct our American lawyers to file the necessary petition with the US Federal Supreme Court."

Domingo said the Philippine government was given 90 days to appeal the decision of the US 9th District Circuit Court. He expected the government to be given 60 days to answer.

"Ordinarily, the US Supreme Court will take 30 days to decide. That would be around March. By April next year, distribution of $2,000 to each qualified victim will be implemented, not under the auspices of Sabio or the Philippine government but upon orders of the US District Court," Domingo told the INQUIRER.

Sabio said in earlier interviews that the Philippine government would pursue the case because the money rightfully belonged to the government based on a July 16, 2003 Supreme Court decision that awarded $650 million in frozen Marcos Swiss accounts to the government.

By law, all the funds recovered by the PCGG go to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), he added.

Sabio also claimed the deal was disadvantageous to the government and any official who participates or allows the reward would open himself up to graft charges.

Besides, awarding the amount to the victims means that the country is forfeiting its claim on the Arelma account, which amounts to giving up the country's "sovereign immunity," the PCGG chair said.

The concept of sovereign immunity holds that a government cannot commit a legal wrong and is immune from both civil and criminal prosecution.

Sabio said the effects of giving up the country's right to sovereign immunity would be "incalculable."

The PCGG chair also said he was not opposed to any settlement for the victims but that this should be done through legislation.

Sabio said the PCGG petition to rehear the case before the 9th District Court of Appeals was filed as a matter of procedure for going up to the US Supreme Court. "If we lose, that is the end. But I am certain we will be sustained on the basis of sovereign immunity," he said.

Baseless assertion

His statement did not sit well with Domingo, who said Sabio and the government had tried to throw a "monkey wrench" into the case.

Domingo and his co-counsel Robert Swift hit the government for "betraying the interest of the victims" as it tried to get its own hands on the Arelma account.

Domingo said Sabio's argument of sovereign immunity was a "baseless assertion."

The decision of the US Court of Appeals itself "completely debunked this unfounded defense of Sabio," he said.

Domingo pointed to the section of the decision which said that "under the guidance of immunity and good conscience, it (sovereign immunity) is not the sole consideration."

He also said the decision of the Philippine Supreme Court to award the Marcos Swiss accounts to the government "does not apply outside of the Philippines."

"The funds are in the US. So it could not be finally disposed off except through a decision of a US court," Domingo said.

"The PCGG knows it has no meritorious claim to the money and is simply using all sorts of dilatory tactics as a whip to punish the victims," he said.

Domingo said that in the Arelma case, the rights of the victims were already upheld three times by the US Court. "While the government keeps on losing and the victims keep on winning, all the legal technicalities are resorted to by the now-beleaguered Sabio, who is a known Marcos man." *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Thaksin ousted in coup; flies to London

From page A1

to the Thai News Agency (TNA).

"I was prime minister when I came, and I was jobless on the way back," he told TNA, in his first remarks to reporters since the coup.

"I volunteer to work for the country," he said. "If they don't want me to do that, I won't."

Thaksin aides arrested

The Thai newspaper The Nation said several senior government officials and others close to Thaksin had been arrested, with their fates unknown.

Those arrested included Deputy Prime Minister Chitchai Wannasathit and Supreme Military Commander Gen. Ruengroj Maharsaranond, while Defense Minister Gen. Thamarak Isarangura narrowly escaped arrest and fled upcountry, the Nation said.

Agriculture Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan, one of Thaksin's closest political associates, fled to Paris with her family, it said.

Sondhi said at a news conference in Bangkok that a post-coup interim government would retain power for no more than one year.

Asked whether there would be moves to confiscate Thaksin's vast assets, Sondhi said "those who have committed wrongdoings have to be prosecuted according to the law." He did not elaborate.

Sondhi said he would act as prime minister for two weeks until a new leader "who is neutral and upholds democracy" was found. Then, the new government would not hold on to power for more than a year, he said.

Elections in 2007

Sondhi said general elections would be held in October 2007.

Residents of the Thai capital awoke Wednesday to the unfamiliar sight of soldiers on street corners and tanks blocking off the government district.

But the city of more than 10 million was calm and most residents appeared unfazed by the dramatic turn of events.

Nearly 20 tanks—their barrels festooned with ribbons in the royal color, yellow—cordoned off the Royal Palace, Royal Plaza, Army headquarters and Thaksin's office at Government House.

Sondhi said the overthrow was needed "in order to resolve the conflict and bring back normalcy and harmony among people."

"We would like to reaffirm that we don't have any intention to rule the country and will return power to the Thai people as soon as possible," he said.

He said the newly created Council of Administrative Reform carried out the coup to end intensifying conflicts in Thai society, corruption in the government, insults to the revered Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and what the general called Thaksin's attempts to destroy democratic institutions.

The king endorsed Sondhi to head the new governing council, according to a televised announcement.

Assemblies banned

"All people should remain peaceful and civil servants should listen to order from Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin from now on," according to the announcement.

A council statement urged workers and farmers—a key constituency of Thaksin—to remain calm, adding that holding a gathering of more than five people was punishable by six months in prison and a fine of 10,000 baht ($265).

LONDON—THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SAID OUSTED THAI PRIME Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's visit to Britain was private and he had no meetings scheduled with Prime Minister Tony Blair or other officials.

"Any citizen of the world is free to visit the United Kingdom providing their paperwork is in order," a government spokesperson said on condition of anonymity.

"He can come spend his money at Harrods if he wants to," he said, referring to a high-end London department store.

Thaksin would have to follow normal channels if he wanted to apply for residency in Britain, the spokesperson said.

Thaksin's daughter Pinthongta is studying in London, and Thaksin is reported to own property in the city. *AP*

Coup leaders also slapped strict controls on foreign and domestic media, state television announced.

The order gives the communications ministry the right to block "disinformation" deemed harmful to a provisional military council now in control of the country, the announcement said.

"Please report the news straightforwardly and constructively, in order to bring back normalcy to our country," it said.

Foreign news channels, including CNN and the BBC, were taken off the air immediately after the coup and more than half a day later were still being blocked.

A coup spokesperson said Thaksin had been ousted to resolve a near yearlong political deadlock and to stop "rampant corruption."

The military announced that the country's four regional Army commanders were appointed to keep the peace and run a civil administration in their respective areas outside the capital, adding that those who resist the commanders would be severely punished.

Thaksin was to have delivered a speech to the United Nations but cancelled it.

His official government spokesperson, Surapong Suebwonglee, painted a gloomy picture.

"We have to accept what happened," he said. "We are not coming back soon."

'This is exciting'

Some Thais welcomed the surprise turn of events as a necessary climax to months of demands for Thaksin to resign amid allegations of corruption, electoral skullduggery and a worsening Muslim insurgency.

A few dozen people raced over to the prime minister's office overnight to take pictures of tanks surrounding the area.

"This is exciting. Someone had to do this. It's the right thing," said Somboon Sukheviriya, 45, a software developer snapping pictures of the armored vehicles with his cell phone.

Former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, a member of the opposition Democrat Party, reflected an ambivalence that is likely to surface in coming days.

"As politicians, we do not support any kind of coup, but during the past five years the government of Thaksin created several conditions that forced the military to stage the coup. Thaksin has caused the crisis in the country," he told The Associated Press.

Thaksin handily won three general elections since coming to power in 2001 and garnered great support among the rural poor for his populist policies.

Fears of countercoup

Television showed the military chiefs heading in a motorcade to the palace late on Tuesday to report to the king, images likely to dampen any agitation in the countryside, where support for Thaksin is strong.

Fears of a countercoup by Thaksin loyalists within the military and police died down after a senior general said his main deputy, Chidchai Vanasatidya, had been "invited to stay" at Army headquarters.

Leaders of the coup said it had been necessary to resolve the political stalemate that stemmed from a street campaign against Thaksin, accusing him of subverting democracy for the good of his family and friends in big business.

"Never in Thai history have the people been so divided," coup spokesperson Prapart said. "The majority of people had become suspicious of this administration, which is running the country through rampant corruption."

After mass street protests against him in Bangkok, Thaksin called a snap poll in April, hoping his rural following would counter his metropolitan foes.

Opposition parties argued Thaksin had skewed neutral bodies such as the Election Commission in his favor, however, and boycotted the poll, rendering the result invalid.

Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai party had been expected to win a re-run tentatively scheduled for late November, increasing pressure on his opponents in the military and the old establishment to remove him by force. *Reports from AP, Reuters and AFP*

AFP officials rule out Thai-style coup vs GMA

From page A1

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz also told the budget hearing that any military interference in Philippine politics was "always a step backward in building a democracy."

Esperon discussed with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita by phone the Thai coup but agreed not to comment on it publicly, said Esperon's spokesperson, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

Ermita, however, told Malacanang reporters that Ms Arroyo was monitoring the situation in Thailand. He dismissed suggestions that Ms Arroyo was devastated by the ouster of Thaksin who she once described as a role model.

"In our case, we remain stable. The President is in firm control of government and the armed services are backing up the constitution and duly constituted authority," Ermita said.

"I don't see any reason why we should be afraid. I don't see what the connection is. The situation in Thailand is different from the Philippines. We have political stability," he said.

Bacarro conceded antigovernment elements might exploit the situation.

"This situation can be taken advantage of by some threat groups. They can start making propaganda along the tune that since it happened in Thailand, it could happen here. However the Armed Forces of the Philippines categorically states that it will not happen here," he said.

Army won't yield

Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, the army chief, also issued a statement to stamp out any thoughts that rebel soldiers might entertain.

"The Philippine Army leadership will never allow a similar incident to happen," Tolentino said through his spokesperson, Maj. Ernesto Torres Jr.

"The Philippine Army as a matter of policy isolates itself from politics and distances itself from political groups. It will not yield to any pressure from antigovernment groups and the political opposition and aid efforts to unconstitutionally change our country's leadership," he said.

On Feb. 24, Ms Arroyo declared a weeklong national state of emergency to crush what she called a leftist and rightist "cabal" to oust her.

Thirty-eight officers led by ex-Scout Rangers chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin are facing investigation for attempted mutiny.

It was the second military uprising against Ms Arroyo, after the July 27, 2003, mutiny staged by some 300 "Magdalo" junior officers and enlisted men at the Oakwood Ayala Premier Hotel in Makati City.

Internal consolidation

"We are all aware that previous attempts (to oust the President Arroyo) have failed because of measures being undertaken by the Armed Forces... We have what we call internal consolidation," Bacarro said.

Senators Jinggoy Estrada, Richard Gordon and Rodolfo Biazon said the Thai coup shattered the myth being propagated by charter change advocates that a parliamentary system was politically stable.

"A parliamentary system like the Thai model will not prevent a military revolt if the administration is corrupt and has no more support from the people," said the son of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Gordon said the government should not recognize the military leadership in Thailand and should encourage a swift return to democracy.

Biazon said that while the military could be an agent for change it had no capability to govern the nation.

Military rule

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he hoped the Thai coup would not influence the Philippine military to grab power. "While Gloria doesn't deserve the presidency, the people don't deserve military rule. Gloria should now resign."

Sen. Ralph Recto doubted the AFP would launch a copycat coup. "What we have is a constitutional military," he said.

"The Thai coup just goes to show it has nothing to do with the form of government but has everything to do with transparency, accountability and honesty in government," said House Deputy Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla.

Philippine Ambassador to Bangkok Antonio Rodriguez said the 7,000 Filipinos in Thailand were safe. Most of them are teachers, UN workers, entertainers and businessmen.

Thai Airways said flights between Manila and Bangkok remained on schedule. "Everything is normal," said an official. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, Nikko Dizon, Philip C. Tubeza, Christine O. Avendano, AFP*

Thai military takeover condemned worldwide

From page A1

tourist drawcard where tanks and troops now lined the streets of the capital, Bangkok.

The European Union joined the international condemnation of the coup. In a statement issued by Finland, the 25-nation bloc demanded "that the military forces stand back and give way to the democratically elected political government."

China described the coup as "an internal affair of Thailand" and made no public judgment.

"The friendly relations between China and Thailand will continue to develop," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Qin Gang said.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard described the coup as a "great disappointment" and a throwback to the days when Asian democracies were threatened by their generals.

Japanese concern

"We condemn military coups," Howard told reporters. "They are a throwback to a past I had hoped Asia had emerged from."

Japan also called for the quick restoration of democracy in a country where many top Japanese businesses have factories and affiliates.

Thailand has emerged as a major center of production and logistics for many Japanese automakers and other manufacturers as they build up their international operations, leading to large inflows of direct investment from Japan.

While it was business as usual for most Japanese companies, the coup disrupted some operations.

"We are monitoring the development with serious concern," Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso said in a statement.

Wait and see

Indonesia also said it was watching developments in Thailand "with great concern."

Others were adopting a more wait-and-see attitude toward the coup, which occurred amid months of political turmoil and sharp criticism that Thaksin had eroded Thailand's democracy.

"It's really too early to form any hardened judgments," Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill told The Associated Press in Washington. The US state department said that officials "are monitoring the situation with concern."

Australia, Britain, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong and the United States were among countries that advised their citizens already in Thailand to stay indoors, and for those planning trips to reconsider.

Safety first

Malaysia's Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he was "shocked" by the coup, but his government had not advised Malaysians to avoid their northern neighbor, Malaysia's Bernama news agency reported.

In Taiwan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the situation in Thailand looked "peaceful overall" but advised its citizens to mind their safety if traveling there.

Thai financial officials attending an annual IMF-World Bank meeting in Singapore were rushing home early Wednesday because of the coup, International Monetary Fund chief Rodrigo de Rato said.

Return to civilian rule

But Thai trade officials continued participating at global trade talks Wednesday at an international summit in the northeastern Australian city of Cairns.

Pakistan, whose President Gen. Pervez Musharraf seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999, was "watching the situation with concern," Islamabad spokesperson Tasnim Aslam said.

The Asian Human Rights Commission joined international civil liberties groups, including US-based Freedom House and Human Rights Watch, in condemning the coup.

"The Royal Thai Army must immediately renounce power and allow for a return to a caretaker civilian government by the most effective and expedient means possible," the commission, founded by prominent jurists and human rights activists, said in a statement.

It also called on the UN General Assembly in New York and the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, both of which are in session, to unconditionally condemn the coup and also call for the restoration of civilian government. *AP*

Dramatic fall for Thai billionaire known as the CEO Prime Minister

BANGKOK, THAILAND—EIGHTEEN months ago, tycoon-turned-politician Thaksin Shinawatra won a landslide election victory and became a rising star on the regional stage. Today, he is out of a job after a coup d'etat and considering life in exile.

It was a dramatic fall for the 57-year-old billionaire known as the CEO Prime Minister for his corporate style but also a fate that critics said was deserved.

He had no shortage of enemies who claimed he was authoritarian, arrogant and someone who survived by pitting the rural majority against the country's urban elite.

"We warned Thaksin a long time ago about this. We repeatedly said that Thaksin and his system would be a condition for a coup," said Suriyasai Katasila, a spokesperson for the anti-Thaksin protest group People's Alliance for Democracy.

Thaksin, who hails from a family of silk merchants and was educated in the United States, rose to power in 2001 on a raft of populist policies as Thailand was recovering from Asia's devastating financial crisis.

He described himself as a new breed of politician, who could revitalize Thailand by running it like a company.

But even before he took office, Thaksin courted controversy.

A week before the 2001 election, Thaksin was charged with concealing assets in his telecommunications empire by transferring shares to relatives, his chauffeur, maid and others.

THAKSIN: He was warned his confrontational style divided country. AP

Questionable ethics

At one point, two of his domestic servants were among the top 10 shareholders on Thailand's stock exchange.

Despite his questionable ethics, Thaksin won over voters by accusing the incumbent Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai of failing to properly manage the country's economy and of neglecting the poor.

Thaksin nurtured his core constituency in the countryside, lavishing the poor rural majority with virtually free health care, a three-year debt suspension program for farmers and low-interest loans for poor villages.

But his popularity in the countryside was matched by growing criticism in the cities, where activists and intellectuals portrayed him as an autocrat masquerading as a democrat.

Disregard for human rights

They accused him of disregarding human rights, muffling the press and blurring the lines between his private businesses and politics.

He was also accused of mishandling the worsening Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, after he imposed a state of emergency that led to rights abuses and failed to stem the violence.

Thaksin was overwhelmingly reelected in 2005 to a second term when his Thai Rak Thai (Thais Love Thais) party won 377 of the 500 seats in the House of Representatives.

His main defense against critics since then has been that he enjoys a mandate endorsed by 19 million voters.

But that didn't stop protesters from launching a campaign to oust Thaksin.

Evading taxes

What started as a quirky protest caught fire in January after Thaksin sold the family's controlling stake of Shin to Singapore's state investment company, Temasek Holdings, for 73.3 billion baht ($1.9 billion). No tax was paid on the sale.

Critics say the Shin deal involved insider trading and tax dodges and complained that national assets—including communications satellites—were sold to a foreign government.

Anger over the sale helped the movement attract middle class voters, students and business leaders, prompting street rallies that became nightly protests and at times drew over 100,000 people who demanded his resignation.

Thaksin dissolved Parliament in February and called snap elections to defuse the protests. But opposition parties boycotted the polls.

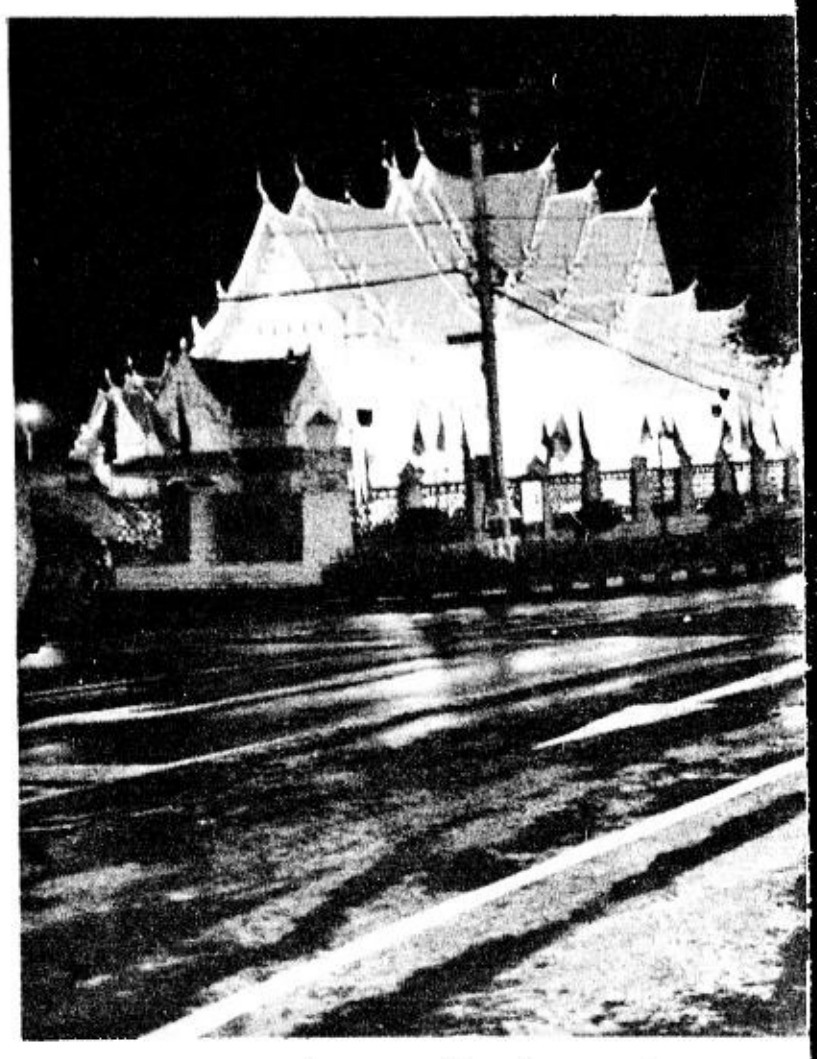
Because a minimum vote rule was not met in some constituencies, the Parliament could not be convened. The vote was later ruled invalid by the courts.

Like a child

Thaksin initially said he would step down to ease the crisis but in recent weeks has been acting and talking like a politician on the comeback trail.

Just days ago in New York, Thaksin seemed unaware of the events unfolding back home. He made light of the ongoing political crisis, comparing Thailand to a "child learning to walk."

"I, for one, haven't seen a child learning to walk without bumping his bottom constantly," he told a crowd in New York. "As adults, we must learn to live with the pain and the pangs of democracy, lest we throw out the baby with the bathwater." AP



King holds key

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S REVERED KING Bhumibol Adulyadej who has reigned for 60 years—more than any living monarch—has outlasted 20 prime ministers, 15 constitutions and at least as many coups.

After the country's military staged a bloodless coup late Tuesday, seizing power from unpopular Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, people in the streets of Bangkok seemed unfazed, certain the king would again see them through crisis.

"It's just the news," a woman chicken vendor said. "Tomorrow everything will be back to normal. Everything is OK because we have a king."

In a sign of the king's influence, Army Commander in Chief Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin met with the monarch immediately after declaring that he had seized power from Thaksin.

To reassure the nation that their intentions were honorable, Sondhi and the coup leaders broadcast pictures of the king on television.

King Bhumibol has few legal powers but wields enormous influence over his people, who revere him with an almost godlike devotion that confounds outsiders more accustomed to the tabloid treatment of European royals.

In a culture where religion and royalty are intertwined, the 78-year-old monarch has carefully nurtured his role as caretaker of his people and helped Thailand weather six decades of political and social upheaval.

"In times of crisis, when we reach an impasse or stalemate, we look up to the king to help us find a way out," Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a professor of political science at Chuloalongkorn University, told Agence France-Presse.

Painter and musician

An accomplished yachtsman, painter, author and musician, the king was born on Dec. 5, 1927, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Bhumibol was still a toddler when his father, Prince Mahidol, died while studying medicine at Harvard. The mother of Bhumibol kept the family in the United

THAI KING Bhumibol Adulyad more than any living monarch, periods of often turbulent cha met with the nation's revered coup Tuesday against Prime M

Army chief recently called military coup in Thailand a 'thing of past'

BANGKOK—THAI ARMY COMmander in Chief Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin said early this year that military coups were "a thing of the past" and that political problems should be solved by politicians.

But on Wednesday, after ousting Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Sondhi said the overthrow was needed to end Thailand's long-running political conflict and heal growing divisions in society.

Thaksin's government elevated Sondhi to the country's top military job last year, hoping he might help douse a bloody Islamic insurgency in the south because of his religious and military background.

Sondhi, 59, the son of a military civil servant, was the first Muslim to command the Army in Buddhist-dominated Thailand. In contrast with Thaksin, he advocated a peaceful approach to the separatist insurgency, recently calling for negotiations with the rebels rather than military confrontation.

Thaksin's iron-fist policy in the mostly Muslim provinces of the deep south had failed to halt the violence, in which more than 1,700 have died since early 2004 in almost daily shootings, bombings and beheadings.

Sondhi was seen as bringing unique qualities to his job. As a former head of the special warfare command, he was considered especially suited to deal with counterinsurgency problems. That he served with Thai forces in the Vietnam War gave him added credibility.

"I will make the Royal Thai Army into the army of the people, and will make soldiers the beloved soldiers of the people," Sondhi said upon his appointment. "We already have more than enough soldiers in the (southern) region, but we need tangible results from them."

When massive anti-Thaksin demonstrations earlier this year threatened to erupt into violence, Sondhi kept his distance and quashed coup rumors.

"Military coups are a thing of the past," he said, echoing comments from other top military officers. "Political troubles should be resolved by politicians."

As recently as last week, amid growing tensions in the wake of an alleged assassination plot against Thaksin, Sondhi denied any coup was in the works.

COUP leader Lt. Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin is the first Muslim to head the Buddhist nation's army and is known to be close the country's revered king. Sonthi, 59, a decorated combat veteran, had publicly clashed with Thaksin over security policy in the run-up to the Sept. 19 military takeover in Bangkok. AFP

"Has the situation gone to that point? No. There is still a way to go by democratic means," he said. "We should stop talking about it. It is impossible."

It's still unclear exactly what triggered Sondhi's move on Tuesday.

After the coup on Wednesday, Sondhi said Thaksin's overthrow was needed "in order to resolve the conflict and bring back normalcy and harmony among people."

"We would like to reaffirm that we don't have any intention to rule the country and will return power to the Thai people as soon as possible," he said, flanked by the three Armed Forces chiefs and the head of the national police force.

Sondhi is thought to be close to the revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has expressed unhappiness with Thaksin's governance.

"The situation in the country is a cause of great suffering for His Majesty," Sondhi said in May. "If there is anything I and the Army can do for the country, I am ready to do it because I am a soldier under the king." AP

SOLDIERS on a tank guard the avenue leading to the Government House and the King's residence (Chitralada Palace) in Dusit, Bangkok. ROBY ALAMPAY

Thailand at a Glance

- **Capital** Bangkok
- **Government** Constitutional Monarchy
- **Chief of State** His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (also the Head of the Armed Forces, Upholder of the Buddhist religion and Upholder of all religions)
- **Head of government** Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra
- **Location** In Southeast Asia, bordering Laos and Cambodia to the east, the Gulf of Thailand and Malaysia to the south, and the Andaman Sea and Myanmar to the west.
- **Land Area** 514,000 sq. km. • **Population** 65.4 million
- **Religion** 94.6% **Buddhist**; 4.6% **Muslim**; 0.7% **Christian**; others 0.1% (2000 census)
- **Literacy rate** 92.6% • **GDP** (growth rate) 4.5%
- **Natural resources** tin, rubber, natural gas, tungsten, tantalum, timber, lead, fish, gypsum, lignite, fluorite, arable land
- **Industries** Tourism, textiles and garments, agricultural processing, beverages, tobacco, cement, light manufacturing (jewelry, electric appliances and components), computers and parts, integrated circuits, furniture, plastics, automobiles and automotive parts, tungsten and tin producer
- **Recent political crisis** Massive rallies calling for Thaksin to resign came after the report last January that five of his relatives did not pay 60 billion baht (Bt) worth of taxes after they sold their 1.49 billion shares in the Thaksin-founded telecommunications giant Shin Corp. to subsidiaries of the state-owned Temasek.

To appease his critics, snap elections are held but boycotted by the opposition. After meeting with the King, he agreed to step down as soon as next parliament meets and handed the power to Deputy PM Chidchai Vanasatidya. Weeks later, Thaksin took back the reins of power. The King approved that elections be held on Oct. 15. In July, the Thai army chief's decision to reassign officers perceived to be pro-Thaksin, adds fuel to coup rumors.

- **Coups** Following a bloodless revolution that led to a constitutional monarchy in 1932, Thailand has undergone periods of both democracy and military rule. The country had at least 17 coups with the last successful one occurring in 1991.

Sources: CIA World Factbook, official website for tourism in Thailand, website of the Thai Embassy in Washington DC, Bank of Thailand, BBC
Compiled by: Inquirer Research

A THAI soldier atop a tank displays flowers given by a well-wisher near Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, Wednesday.

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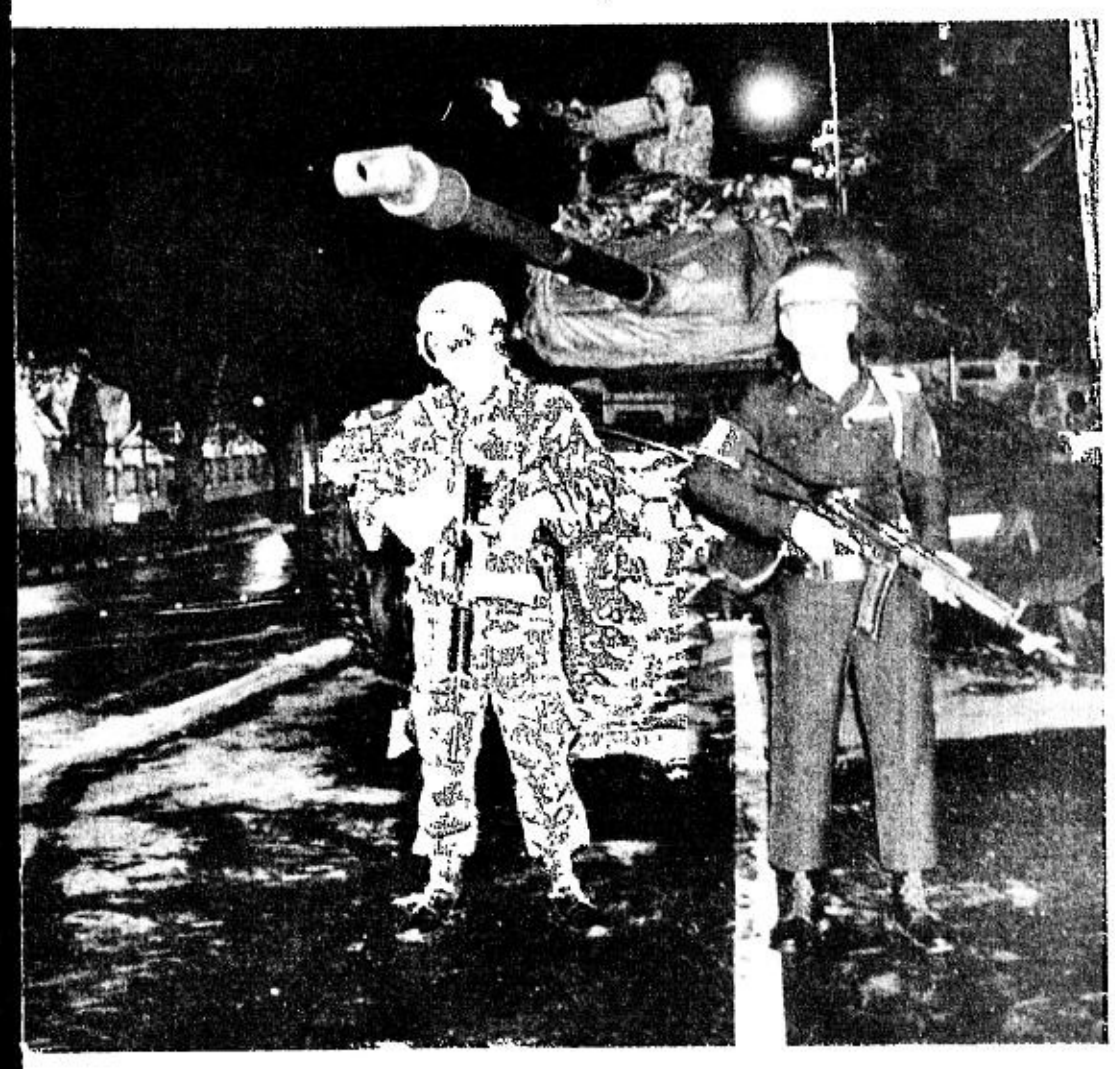

SOLDIERS and tanks blocked off Si Ayutthaya Road in Dusit, Bangkok, Wednesday. ROBY ALAMPAY

AT RIGHT, a soldier greets a woman offering roses at a roadblock outside the heavily guarded government office in Bangkok, Wednesday, following a military coup. Thailand's new military rulers tightened their grip after an overnight coup, imposing strict controls on the media and banning public gatherings in what they said was a bid to restore order. AFP

to solving crisis

ej: The 78-year-old monarch has reigned for 60 years, and has helped to keep the nation unified through ge. Thailand's army chief Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin king immediately after declaring that he had staged a nister Thaksin Shinawatra. AFP

States and Europe for most of his youth, hoping to protect them from the political upheaval at home that saw the Kingdom of Siam transformed into a constitutional monarchy called Thailand.

When his elder brother died on the throne of a gunshot wound to the head in circumstances never fully explained, however, Bhumidol was proclaimed king on the same day—June 9, 1946.

Bhumibol, however, went to Switzerland to study and was not formally crowned until May 1950, when he received the official royal name Rama the Ninth. His full name means "Strength of the Land—Incomparable Power."

His picture hangs in every taxi, office and shop. Before every film, audiences stand in cinemas to pay him homage while pictures of him flash across the screen.

People stop to pay respect to the king—even on subway platforms during rush hour—when the national anthem is played twice a day on radio and television.

Despite carving out a position of strict neutrality in politics, the king has occasionally intervened to spectacular effect to end domestic upheaval.

Obedience to king

In 1973, after riots broke out at a Bangkok university, King Bhumibol asked a prime minister and his henchman to leave the country in a bid to halt a rising tide of social disorder. They obeyed.

In 1992, he called Prime Minister Gen. Suchinda Kraprayoon to his palace and humiliated him on television for ordering a bloody military crackdown on demonstrations against his government. The prime minister resigned.

Most recently, on April 25, the king publicly castigated Supreme Court judges and ordered them to break a political deadlock caused by months of street protests and inconclusive elections.

The Supreme Court judges nullified the elections and ordered new polls.

King Bhumibol has also won the hearts of the Thai people with his persistent advocacy for the ancient Buddhist values of self-sufficiency and moderation in the face of a rapidly growing consumer culture. *AFP*

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Democracy defeated

EDITORIAL

THE RUMORS HAD BEEN SWIRLING AROUND Bangkok for weeks. And they proved to be true. Late Tuesday night, the Thai armed forces surrounded government offices, and the head of the army, Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin, assumed the powers of the prime minister, imposed martial law and revoked the constitution. For Filipinos who have been reflecting on their martial law past, the news filtering out of Bangkok seemed eerily familiar: radio and TV off the air, then broadcasting propaganda; arrests of officials; tanks and soldiers rumbling through the streets.

For the 17th time since Thai officers stripped the monarchy of its powers in 1932, the military has taken political matters into its own hands. In 73 years, the Thai military has ruled the country for almost 46 years.

Talk of another coup started in 2002, not because of politics but due to disagreements between the civilian leadership and the military over the handling of border security concerns. Those concerns haven't gone away. And it may be that the real concern of the Thai military isn't honest government, but rather, frustration over how civilians handle security matters.

Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted as prime minister, had been under siege politically since April. There were allegations of corruption in his cabinet, and further allegations of his having engaged in a kind of insider trading. There was ethnic violence in the south of Thailand, and the middle class was outraged by Thaksin's attempts to weaken independent institutions. Something had to give, and what gave out was democracy.

Thaksin at least instinctively grasped at securing a new mandate. While he got the votes, an opposition boycott and then a series of other damaging allegations concerning the manner in which authorities handled the election, denied him legitimacy. He promised to relinquish power, but then held on to it. The Thai electoral authority was purged of partisan members. The country was poised to resolve the question of leadership in another general election.

At the time, Thaksin was given credit for at least having the confidence in the electorate to return him and his party to power; and the opposition had at least managed a temporary unity, demonstrating, too, that a significant portion of Thai society was prepared to resist the authoritarian instincts of Thaksin. The King of Thailand was praised far and wide for intervening to defuse political tensions and use his moral sway to pave the way for cleaner and fairer elections.

A major opposition rally was scheduled in Bangkok this weekend. The coup has closed that option. Thaksin and his civilian critics are now in the same boat. And as more than one observer has asked, for the democracy-oriented protesters that made history in Bangkok, the question is: Thaksin is gone, but is this what anyone wanted?

It may not be what most of Thaksin's critics desired, but it was a situation that was always waiting in the wings to unfold and grab the limelight. Thaksin played coy at a time when the king had already spoken out, but Thaksin viewed it as a temporary setback. On the day of the coup, he was still pondering whether or not he'd run for office in his constituency or settle for being a member of the party list. The Thai military might have taken that as a signal that the coming elections would resolve nothing, and prolong the political crisis.

But now the soldiers have created a new one. They promise fresh elections in which Thaksin can run. Still, the bayonets have slashed to ribbons a decade of at times chaotic and frustrating democratic development. Thailand is back to square one.

For Filipinos, the saying that comes to mind is, "There, but for the grace of God, go we." The country came close to such a pass last February, brought there in large part by similar frustrations over the national leadership and its corrosive influence on public institutions, including the armed forces. But our armed forces lack the solidarity and discipline—and a history of success—that their Thai counterparts have.

As the Thai officers have proven, though, extreme measures can only be stop-gap. Elections are still the ultimate goal, because they remain the tried and tested way to confer legitimacy and maintain stability. A close call last February should not delude civilian politicians here at home that they can pursue plans to call off next year's elections. It could be as fatal to our democratic way of life, flawed as it is, as this week's military intervention in Bangkok.

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Enduring lesson

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

ONE THING IS CLEAR ABOUT THAILAND'S still murky 42nd coup d'état Monday. Its future will be set, not by the generals, but by the frail 79-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Bereft of any legal powers, King Bhumibol commands moral authority so that tanks, which snarled further Bangkok's traffic, displayed his yellow standard.

Tuesday night what had been persistent rumor became fact. Soldiers seized key offices. Troops appeared at city choke points. And for the first time in a coup-free 15 years, the media had their plugs pulled.

The constitution and caretaker parliament were suspended, a military spokesperson said. Army chief Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin "will assume prime ministerial powers," and give the "Council of Political Reform" a human face.

Quickly, the generals called on the highly revered King Bhumibol and "declared loyalty to him." So far, the monarch has "made no comment about whether he backs the takeover attempt," BBC's Kate McGeown reported in Bangkok.

The seizure would be temporary, said spokesperson Gen. Prapart Sakuntanak soothingly. Power would be "returned to the people soon. We ask for the cooperation of the public and ask your pardon for the inconvenience."

Relaxed soldiers engaged in banter with people.

Apparently, today's generals learned from the worldwide revulsion that stemmed from military brutality in the 1992 coup. I was then a United Nations officer in Thailand. Footage of soldiers firing into unarmed marchers or stomping on bystanders turned the stomach.

What stopped the bloodshed was the king's decisive intervention. From the throne room, TV showed the unelected prime minister, Gen. Suchinda Kraprayoon, and his rival, Chamlong Srimuang, kneel while the normally publicity-shy monarch told them bluntly to stop the bloodshed. They obeyed.

The king also voiced his protest against abuses of Muslim minorities and summary executions, a point *esquadrones de la muerte* here should note. These were heeded, too.

But much law remains at the end of a bayonet. Tanks in Bangkok, in effect, booted out Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. This tycoon-turned-politician was snarled in corruption scandals, including wringing tax-free benefits for the sale of his major telecom holdings.

The coup came when Thaksin landed in New York. He was to speak before a United Nations General Assembly focused on what Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said about his raw ambition to join the nuclear club.

A spokesperson insisted that Thaksin remained prime minister. But his speech to the UN has been cancelled. BBC said it seemed "unlikely" he'd be returning soon.

In days ahead, as in Thailand's previous crises, attention will focus once again on King Bhumibol. Why does he remain relevant when monarchs have gone out of fashion?

He was born in Massachusetts in 1927. He came to the Chakri throne in 1946, which makes him the world's longest reigning monarch—and arguably the most revered by his people.

"When King Bhumibol speaks, his people listen," Joseph Wright notes in his book "The Balancing Act." "In an era when monarchies are on the wane, his pictures appear in every home ... (reflecting) the enormous respect and affection the king has built up over five decades of working to improve his country."

It was not always that way. The 18-year-old King Bhumibol started as a ceremonial figurehead. He had "no more power than it took to cut a ceremonial ribbon to open a new highway."

But the young king was not content to play jazz on his saxophone in comfortable palaces. Instead, he poured his time, talents and limited resources in reaching out to Thailand's poor with programs and projects.

Politicians like Phibul Songkhran sought to undercut his reach. "From his earliest days, (the king) was never content to be the dignified stalking horse for a corrupt power elite," Wright notes. He defined a new role for the monarchy by becoming a neutral and transparent bridge between elite and people.

"It's quite normal that people should use the king," the monarch told BBC in an interview. "But the way of using depends on us also, that we are doing things that are good for the country, and (that) we don't have any secrets."

That is a formula for transparent service as governance. It is the root of his influence. "Only in extreme circumstances does the king touch the levers of power today. But when he does, the intervention is decisive," Asiaweek notes.

Thailand's return to its coup-spattered past will be watched in this country with concern. This is a key country of Asean with which the Philippines has long solid ties.

"The Thai elite cannot continue to rely on the 11th-hour rescues that King Bhumibol has, in the past, provided," Wright asserts. And the king has been ailing.

When he goes, as all mortals must, who steps in? Not the crown prince who patently lacks his father's moral stature—or dedication. "My son likes his weekends," Queen Sirikit once wryly said in a rare interview.

The Magsaysay Awardee, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn? She resembles the king in her focused service for people.

And this new coup serves as a warning to us here. Democratic government does not carry irrevocable guarantees. Nor is it an invitation for our military to do likewise. History has shown that in Thailand, the Philippines and elsewhere, military rule "merely plows the sea."

Only governance that rises above self—and is transparent—is what matters in the long run. Filipinos will be grateful to King Bhumibol for the enduring lesson of his life.

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Then and now

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IS GMA ANOTHER MARCOS?

Good question to ask today, the 34th anniversary of martial law, and the year GMA unleashed 1017 and other martial law-like edicts. My answer to it is yes and no. But lest readers take comfort in that answer, the "no" there is an even greater source of dread.

The yes is patent. GMA is another Marcos in many respects.

Marcos became an illegitimate ruler after September 1972, ruling without the mandate of the people. GMA became an illegitimate ruler after May 2004, ruling without the mandate of the people. However she twists in the wind, GMA will never be able to escape the ghost of the "Hello Garci" tapes. Her allies in the House of Representatives may refuse to accept that as evidence to impeach her, but the public will always find in it a reason to revile her.

Marcos wanted to rule forever, GMA wants to rule forever. Not quite incidentally, Marcos also tried to circumvent the ban against a third presidential term by bribing the Constitutional Convention to shift the form of government from presidential to parliamentary. His plot was foiled by an honest old man named Eduardo Quintero who exposed the bribe. His legal avenues closed to him, Marcos took the illegal route of declaring martial law.

The Cha-cha prospers, and GMA can rule after 2010 by becoming prime minister. Of course, Jose de Venecia thinks he will be it, but he has always been horribly deluded. Of course, too, the transitory provisions say GMA can only name the prime minister and not be it, but the last elections also say FPJ and not GMA won, and she has been it. Indeed, the whole trajectory of GMA's rule suggests she does not mean to give up power ever. The scale of the killings, which opens her up at the very least to legal retribution from her victims in the form of a class suit not unlike the one the martial-law torture victims lodged (successfully) against Marcos and at the very most to physical reprisal, must suggest so.

Marcos ruled by force, GMA rules by force. That follows from the fact that both were/are illegitimate. The only way to maintain illegitimate rule is by force. Marcos unleashed a scale of killings unprecedented in postwar Philippine history, GMA has launched a scale of killings unprecedented since Marcos. The object of the killings then as now is the same: to wipe out opposition from the face of the earth. The only difference is that GMA does so indirectly, by sending a chilling message to critics via her death warrant on the NPA.

Marcos was obsessed with power and broke all the rules to get what he wanted, GMA is obsessed with power and is breaking all the rules to get what she wants. Both lied through their teeth. Lying was Marcos' favorite pastime, too. When I was writing the book on martial law, I toyed with the idea of titling it "Lying in State," but my publishers thought it either misleading or grim. But that was what Marcos did more than anything else: he lied relentlessly about matters of state.

He even lied about the date of the proclamation of martial law. Martial law was **not** declared on Sept. 21, 1972, which was a Thursday, it was declared the following day, Sept. 22, which was a Friday. Or technically, since it was declared at midnight, on Sept. 23, Saturday. The choice of a weekend was to prevent the students from greeting it with rallies. But Marcos being superstitious (for some reason, dictators are prone to that), regarding the number 7 and its multiples as lucky for him, he officially declared the 21st as the proclamation date. Thenceforth the country celebrated every Sept. 21 as "Thanksgiving Day," an even more monstrous, and cruelly ironic, lie.

Two things however are different between Marcos and GMA, between then and now.

The first is that Marcos was elected president twice before he contemplated dictatorship, GMA was never elected before she contemplated dictatorship. That is no mean difference; its implications are enormous. Lest we forget (though many of us have already done so), GMA came to power on the wings of people power. The betrayal in her case is mind-boggling. For a beneficiary of a cause that ended dictatorship to be the very instrument that brought it back—it is unspeakable. Indeed, for a beneficiary of people power to be the very instrument of the methodical extirpation of people power—it is obscenity itself.

The practical implication of that is simply that if someone has the gall to do it, what can she possibly balk at? Marcos' instincts, honed from winning a couple of presidential elections, were to try to get around the law, which he did at every turn. GMA's instincts, developed from betraying the very thing that brought her to power, are to scorn the law altogether, which she does at every turn. Between the two, GMA is the one less likely to be deterred by rules and constraints, human or divine.

The second difference, and one thing we truly ought to be scared about, is that then the populace hated Marcos but was deterred from taking to the streets to oust him by the bayonets of martial law. Today, the populace hates GMA but is deterred from taking to the streets by the paralyzing effects of indifference, political fatigue, cynicism and despair—call it what you will. Then the people overcame their fear of the bayonets and rose together in a resplendent act of heroism at Edsa. Will the people today cut through the barbed wire strung around their hearts to do the same?

Abangan ang susunod na kabanata.

* * *

D-Day: Today is the kickoff gig for the "Stop the Killings!" bar tour at 70s Bistro, 46 Anonas St., Quezon City. Bands playing: The Dawn, The Jerks, Sandwich, Sugarfree, Brownman Revival and Radioactive Sago. I'll announce the rest of the schedule over the coming weeks.

Upgrading Filipino standards in Hawaii

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

HAWAII, THE 50TH STATE OF THE UNITED States, is very accessible to the Philippines today, with Philippine Airlines flying direct to Honolulu from Manila and back three times a week. But 100 years ago, 15 Filipinos from Candon, Ilocos Sur, who were recruited to work on Hawaii's sugar plantations, set sail aboard the S.S. Doric from Salomaque Port in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, on a trip that took weeks. The Honolulu community's "historian," Dr. Belinda "Lindy" Aquino, wrote in her chronicles that the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association recruited the Ilocanos because of "their famous traits of frugality, simplicity, industriousness, patience and dependability"—traits that make "ideal workers for the plantations." Over the next 100 years, Filipino workers came to replace the Japanese, Chinese and other Asian workers in the plantations—and began the great Filipino Diaspora. But among the Filipino migrants to Hawaii, as Lindy, herself an Ilocana from San Fernando, La Union, noted, the Ilocanos of the plantations continued to dominate in number, so that today 85 to 90 percent of the Filipino population are of Ilocano descent.

* * *

At the unveiling of the *sakada* statue at the Filipino Community Center in Honolulu, a replica of the one gracing Salomaque Port, Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson told me and Cecile Alvarez (herself an Ilocana, since her mother is from Vigan) over our dzRH program, that descendants of the first *sakadas* greatly appreciate the sacrifices of their forebears. He said Candon has since progressed, due not in small measure to those sacrifices. Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who also attended the commemorative rites, pointed out that Salomaque Port will be rehabilitated with Chinese funding and used mainly in shipping agricultural produce from the Ilocos to North and East Asia.

* * *

Progress in the region that produced the waves of Hawaiian *sakadas* is evident, and as President Macapagal-Arroyo noted during her Honolulu visit, so is the progress of their descendants in Hawaii. GMA said that present-day Hawaiian Filipinos, like those in the US mainland, enjoy standards of living, education and work performance higher than those of many average Americans. She also disclosed that President George Bush, in a congratulatory letter to her on the occasion of the centenary of the Filipino workers' arrival in Hawaii, stressed how Filipinos have helped make America a strong nation with their talent and industry.

Even a cursory look would affirm the conclusion about the vast improvement in the lives of the *sakadas*' descendants. This is most notable in the many success stories about Filipino professionals and politicians. But it also cannot be denied that there's much room for improvement in the quality of jobs held by present-day Filipinos, who continue to arrive in Hawaii at the rate of 3,000 a year in search of a better future. Dr. Ruth Mabanglo and Dr. Teresita Ramos, professors of Filipino literature and language at the University of Hawaii's department of Hawaiian and Indo-Pacific languages, noted in an interview that some quarters think that the waves of *sakada* labor in Hawaiian plantations in the first half of the 20th century may have just transferred in the second half to a "new plantation": Its booming tourism industry. It was pointed out that 75 percent of service personnel in hotels, working as waiters and chambermaids, are of Filipino ancestry, while others work as nannies, airport baggage hands and supermarket bag boys.

* * *

Ramos said that when she started teaching at the University of Hawaii, Filipino descendants comprised only a tiny percentage of the student population. Now, thanks largely to the efforts of leading Filipino educators who were able to obtain federal scholarships for their countrymen, more Filipino students are enrolled, especially in community colleges under the UH system.

Architect Rose Cruz Churma, a sister of Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz who resides in Honolulu and runs a successful bookselling business with her former Peace Corps volunteer-husband Tom, pointed out that Filipinos now comprise about 20 percent of Leeward Community College's population. But compared to the other Asian groups, that number is still very small. Mabanglo said perhaps this could be attributed to a Filipino culture: families place so much emphasis on getting a job and acquiring a house, a car and other material trappings of success instead of seeking better education and training. By contrast, she said, other Asian parents badger their children about their studies and to learn their national language. The Filipino parents' attitude, Mabanglo and Ramos acknowledged, may be due to the poverty they experienced back in the Philippines and the materialistic orientation of its educational system.

* * *

But things are beginning to look up. Rose Churma noted that more Filipinos now occupy jobs in the Hawaiian civil service which were once held by Japanese. With better training and education, it is hoped that there would be fewer Filipinos in service jobs as their competitiveness for higher-caliber jobs in Hawaii increases.

There's a memorandum of agreement between the UH's Kapiolani Community College and the University of Northern Philippines in Vigan signed during the visit of a top-level Hawaiian group, led by Gov. Linda Lingle, last January. The MOA seeks to accelerate the training of Filipino nurses for future employment in Hawaii, where there's a great demand for nurses. About 1,000 Filipino nurses are projected to be hired. The MOA also provides for an exchange of faculty and students between Kapiolani and nursing institutions in the Philippines. All these should help improve the quality of Filipino life in Hawaii. *(Next: The success stories)*

The Pope's language

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

A MARINE SCIENTIST, UPON SEEING THE DAMage of the recent oil spill on Guimaras, is likely to say to his fellow scientists, "The biota exhibited a 100-percent mortality response."

We journalists would write, "All the fish died." It thunders in its simplicity and you couldn't get more dramatic than that.

Author Kurt Vonnegut says that his favorite line among James Joyce's stories is from the short story "Eveline." The sentence: "She was tired." At that point, Vonnegut says, no other words could break the heart of a reader as those three words do.

"Simplicity of language," Vonnegut says, "is not only reputable, but perhaps even sacred. The Bible opens with a sentence well within the writing skills of a lively 14-year-old: 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.'"

The subject of simplicity in language—and its sacredness—was going through my mind while I was going over the lecture that Pope Benedict XVI delivered at the University of Regensburg in Germany last week. It was not a papal "to the city and to the world" (Urbi et Orbi) speech, by the way, only a lecture to a select group of intellectuals in an academic compound.

A sentence in that lecture has so infuriated Muslims who felt that Islam was demeaned. That sentence was not the Pope's own words. The Pope was merely quoting a Byzantine emperor who bashed the Prophet Mohammed's way of spreading the faith. (I do not wish to repeat that sentence here.) The Pope thought the emperor said it "with a startling brusqueness," but he went on to quote it anyway. By quoting that statement, the Pope wanted to merely illustrate a point. He did not say he agreed or disagreed with it.

Well, the Pope should have made himself clear in the next breath, because how were the Muslims to know that the offending sentence's intent was not something also his?

The Pope's lecture that I read (four times the length of this column) was not easy. It was an English translation from German and the subject was philosophy and more.

The Pope has said he was sorry his words (the quote he used) caused offense, something he did not mean. He did not say he was sorry that he used the quote. If the Pope was deliberately testing the waters or proving something by using that offending quote, then he certainly got some answers from the way Muslims reacted.

Many documents and encyclicals of global significance have come from the popes of recent years and one could easily say that these were not crafted by the individual popes alone but were the handiwork of theologians and experts from various fields. Same with the brief speeches and homilies they deliver during their papal visits.

But the Pope's lecture in Regensburg (much like his controversial 2004 "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and the World" when he was still Josef Cardinal Ratzinger) seemed like he crafted it by his lonesome. A lecture is the lecturer's own, something straight out of the lecturer's mind.

The Vatican website calls this piece "Lecture of the Holy Father" and has the title "Faith, Reason and the University: Memories and Reflections."

The Pope began and reminisced as only he could: "It is a moving experience for me to be back again in the university and to be able once again to give a lecture at this podium. I think back to those years when, after a pleasant period at the Freisinger Hochschule, I began teaching at the University of Bonn. That was in 1959, in the days of the old university made up of ordinary professors ... There was lively exchange. with historians, philosophers, philologists and, naturally, between the two theological faculties. Once a semester there was a *dies academicus*, when professors from every faculty appeared before the students of the entire university, making a genuine experience of *universitas*...

"The university was also very proud of its two theological faculties ... (I)t was once reported that a colleague had said that there was something odd about our university: It had two faculties devoted to something that did not exist: God."

Well, after those sweet reminiscences, the Pope dived briefly, but intensely, into the subject of Islam and Christianity, the Koran and the Bible, and the face-off between Byzantine II Paleologus and his educated Persian interlocutor. It was here that that offending statement by the Byzantine emperor was quoted.

One more paragraph on God's nature according to Islam and Greek philosophy and then the Pope segued into God's transcendence and otherness, the "de-hellenization of Christianity," dialogue of cultures and religions so urgently needed today.

Taste the flavor of Pope Benedict XVI's language.

"A reason which is deaf to the divine and which relegates religion into the realm of subcultures is incapable of entering into the dialogue of cultures ...

"For philosophy and, albeit in a different way, for theology, listening to the great experiences and insights of the religious traditions of humanity, and those of the Christian faith in particular, is a source of knowledge, and to ignore it would be an unacceptable restriction of our listening and responding."

That offending quote in the early part did not stray there accidentally. It was put there for a reason. For at the end of his long lecture about a subject that was above ordinary mortals (Jesus spoke more simply), the Pope again took up the debate between the Byzantine emperor and his Persian interlocutor. Once more, he stressed reason as the basis for a great dialogue, not debate, of cultures.

Great. But by then, one would have become bewildered, befuddled and lost in that arcane language that you either knew or didn't know what offended you.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Remember the 23rd of September

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THE OTHER DAY, MY "EXPLAINEE" ON "THE EXplainer" was a young student leader from De La Salle University. He's been giving his elders high blood pressure because of his unorthodox views. Since he's only 18, I asked him how much of his thinking was his own, and how much was influenced by his teachers. He said that his grade school and high school history lessons were about how bad Ferdinand Marcos was; but in college things were different. He spoke highly of a history professor who, he said, was unorthodox in that he simply provided the facts, and then allowed his students to reach their own conclusions.

What the young student believes he said clearly and nicely enough when he appeared on ANC on Ninoy Aquino's death anniversary. He argued that as far as he was concerned, there was no difference between Marcos and his nemesis, Ninoy Aquino but, as he himself told me, on the whole, Marcos at least did a lot for the country. "He built the most infrastructure," he said. He suggested that as long as a president builds roads and bridges and creates jobs and provides health services, that is enough to make him great—as he seems to think Marcos in retrospect was. And besides, who says Marcos had Ninoy killed? he asked.

Cory Aquino apparently felt concerned over what the young student felt, and reached out for some sort of dialogue to help convince him of the error of his ways. "My parents were nervous," upon hearing that, he said. "After all, she is a Cojuangco."

This, perhaps, was the most surprising statement of all: That his parents couldn't see beyond Ms Aquino's family affiliation, or even consider that she represented something more important than what seems to be their view of the Cojuangcos as being rather thuggish. That the student couldn't see beyond infrastructure or the reasons Ninoy, despite the suspicions and even hostility felt by some toward him, could overcome them and become a hero for a generation of Filipinos, becomes more understandable in that light.

My guest during the interview portion of the show was Oscar Lagman, professor and columnist, activist and veteran of the anti-Marcos effort. He pointed out how Marcos bucked the conventional wisdom that martial law would be resisted by the people. He also (quite convincingly, I thought) described the process the craven and unconcerned went through as their initial support, whether cautious or enthusiastic, or fatalistic acceptance, of martial law gave way to opposition.

First, he said, after locking up his prominent enemies and getting even with his prominent business foes, Marcos kept going after people, particularly students. Abductions and disappearances kept taking place.

Second, after business initially hailed martial law, and the regime, with its tough police policies, was able to bask in a few years of economic growth, businesses that had done well began to be gobbled up by Marcos and his cronies.

Third, as the first two factors eroded public confidence and left the country trembling on the verge of economic collapse, Ninoy was killed.

None of the testimony Lagman offered up, or even any arguments I made, influenced the student's thinking in any way, from what I could observe. This isn't to say he's callous—he is, after all, vocal in asserting that dictatorship, in principle, is a bad thing and human rights violations are completely beyond the pale. He is not a Machiavellian youth, though I do think the absence of a strong feeling of connection with the martial law era and his view that everything is relative—Marcos, Ninoy, Cory, simply political figures—and that all things being equal, bridges built trumps all else—are representative of his generation.

It is inevitable, of course, that those born to freedom, and raised only experiencing freedom and the way it tends to be abused, cannot comprehend, much less connect, with those who feel being deprived of it once is enough.

The student's views should provide an opportunity for sober and critical reflection by the De La Salle brothers whom I hold in the highest esteem, beginning with DLSU president Bro. Armin Luistro and the provincial, Bro. Dodo Fernandez, who are sincere patriots and willing to take DLSU in a direction more in keeping with St. John Baptist La Salle's obsession with serving the poor (the traditional, upper-class identity of La Salle in the Philippines is miles apart from the norm among Christian Brothers schools). Poor Brother Armin has embraced the 21st century but his faculty are indoctrinating his students with a kind of seductive, and highly dangerous, relativism.

I happen to think that if an honest and objective enumeration of facts was really provided, students like that young man, never—ever—could he or anyone else argue that Marcos and Ninoy weren't very different and that, in the end, infrastructure puts Marcos over Ninoy. If that were so, Italians would still be pining for the Fascist era when trains ran on time, and the autobahns and Volkswagens of Germany should continue to proudly bear the swastika. It is no coincidence that a euphemism for a kind of torture during the Marcos era, was taken from the San Juanico Bridge, Ferdinand's anniversary present for Imelda.

You have to wonder what kind of facts were presented that leave students blind and unmoved to the imprisonment of political enemies, and the evolution, intellectually, and even spiritually, of those who were detained in the New Society's jails. But then, as Lagman eloquently pointed out, even Marcos' victims pay him homage when they commemorate martial law on Sept. 21. The arrests took place on Sept. 23. Marcos chose a fictitious date, because of numerology, and eventually, to commemorate his acquittal for the Nalundasan murder on Sept. 21, 1939.

Raised in freedom

YOUNG BLOOD

Robert Anthony L. Ramos

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT WAS PERHAPS ONE OF THE WEIRDEST DREAMS I'VE ever had. The first scenes were of armed men storming into my house while I slept. The next scenes happened in a large complex that looked like a school and mall (in my Dreamscape, two regular areas I dream in is one that looks like the Ateneo, and another that looks like a mall). Its layout had an uncanny resemblance to Ayala Alabang, although it seemed to be located somewhere in Quezon City.

More than the location, what bothered me, even after waking up, was the palpable sense of fear. Yes, fear. My dream-self was aware of the situation it was in—that of a dictatorship, or at least a regime where liberties had been suppressed—and I myself felt genuinely afraid. But it wasn't the common fear of dying (especially having a gruesome death). This was no ordinary nightmare but one that seemed to cut deeper than the instinctive fear of dying. This was different. The horror stemmed from the context of martial rule and your sense of utter helplessness as you wished to do or say something and not being able to do it for fear that the dictatorial state would send its agents to pick you up.

I wanted to scream. I wanted to rant and shout my anger, but I couldn't. Something was holding me back. Something was pressing like a vise at the core of my soul and preventing me somehow, even with the knowledge that it was a dream, from doing what I wanted to do. And I think that was where the horror was coming from.

I wasn't born free. My mother gave birth in 1977, five years after Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law. But I came of age in an era of democracy. One of my most vivid memories remains that of watching the Berlin Wall fall, and knowing at that moment, even as a preteen, how it felt and what it symbolized. I was in my teens at a time of celebration of democracy and freedom, part of the first generation of Filipinos to know how it feels like to be free. I was a young adult when democracy and freedom became the trend worldwide, despite all the troubles of the early 21st century.

The malls, the clubs, the coffee shops, the burning of the airwaves with cellular phones, the spreading use of the Internet, our generation's celebrated—and sometimes lamented—outspokenness and abhorrence of limitations and control, even our propensity to come home in the wee hours of the morning—these are all things we take almost for granted like breathing, but they can only be possible within the context of the democracy our people won back after two decades of a conjugal dictatorship. Generation X and beyond cannot be what it is without the freedoms we enjoy and celebrate, even as some of us have started to have our own kids.

That is perhaps what truly made my nightmare of a land under dictatorial rule frightening: The suppression of something we haven't experienced being without. I took part in the activities that culminated in the second people power revolution. I have been part of the youth movement at least since 1998. Even so, I operated within a democratic system, more or less. We were free to raise our fists against the status quo. We were free to question and even take to task those who ruled us. We were even free to call the President of the Republic horrid names, names we wouldn't use against our most bitter foes.

We have known no other world except a free one. We were too young to have known the fear and anger and frustration of those who lived under the dictatorship. Those of us who were old enough to enjoy the stuff then can now only recall that we couldn't watch "Voltes V" anymore and that all of a sudden the video game machines in SM Makati were not there anymore.

Since then, what we have known is a life where you can party till you drop or the next morning (and on the streets, too!), play video games until your eyes water, and watch all the animation, violent movies and adult flicks you can get your hands on. All we've known is a world where the worst we can get for speaking out or speaking against our elders is a slap on the wrist or a temporary grounding. Heck, it's a world that even encourages the young to speak out and challenge authority. Being meek, silent and without opinion is just sooo ... uncool in post-martial law Philippines.

But that night, confronted by the specter of despotism in a realm I was supposedly fully in control of, I felt fearful and powerless despite my loathing and my outrage. All I could do, despite my training and my experiences was press the mental equivalent of a reset button and wake up. Because I just couldn't imagine living in such a world where I was not free to do as I wished, when I wanted to do it.

I hope this is one nightmare that will not become a reality. For real life does not give you that option of waking up to a better existence if the current one has become too horrible.

Robert Anthony L. Ramos, 28, is an AB Communications graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University and serves as director for public relations and communications of the Kabataang Liberal ng Pilipinas, the youth wing of the Liberal Party.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Horror show

"We can only watch in horror how the oil spill can undo in a few days the initiatives which have taken decades to implement."

—Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava, speaking at a meeting of relief agencies tasked to respond to the oil spill in the province

Lost and found

"The scoreboard said I lost today, but what the scoreboard doesn't say is what I've found. Over the last 21 years, I've found loyalty."

—Andre Agassi, as he retires from professional tennis

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Nicole case: 'procedure' suggested by prosecutor has no basis in law

EXCEPT FOR PLEA BARGAINING, CRIMINAL liability cannot be compromised. Meaning, no compromise agreement (involving the criminal aspect of a case) may be entered into by the private offended party and the government with the accused. Only the civil aspect of the crime may be compromised. Hence, the settlement of the civil aspect does not extinguish the criminal liability of the accused. This is a hornbook axiom in law.

The rift between "Nicole" and her mother with Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos revolves around this legal principle. I am extremely surprised why De los Santos should even discuss or "explain" to Nicole's mother the "procedure" on how a criminal liability may be compromised when this is not at all possible.

De los Santos vigorously denies having proposed a settlement of the rape case to Nicole's mother. She claims that she only explained the "procedure" because Nicole's mother inquired about the effects of a possible settlement. De los Santos said: "If they wanted to negotiate then they have to put it in writing ... and Nicole has to take the witness stand again to say she's desisting. What's wrong with that?" (PDI, 9/16/06)

As a law practitioner, I believe there is something wrong with the procedure suggested by De los Santos—i.e., if the offended party wants to negotiate a settlement he/she has "to put it in writing." I would not advise my offended party-client, especially in a rape case, to submit a written offer to negotiate a settlement. What if the accused refuses to accept the written offer to negotiate a settlement? He (accused) may use the written offer as a devastating evidence against the veracity of the indictment, the seriousness to prosecute, not to mention its value in showing the mercenary motives of the offended party. The written offer to negotiate may totally demolish the prosecution's case.

LETTERS — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Frankly, this is the first time I have heard of such a procedure which I cannot find in the Revised Rules on Criminal Procedure, or in any other pertinent procedural law or jurisprudence.

—REX G. RICO,
Rico & Associates Lawyers,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Rising criminality in Las Piñas

I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF LAS PIÑAS for the past 26 years. I have lived here all my life and so have most of my brothers and sisters. We have lived and grown with this city and I am proud to say that I am from Las Piñas. However, in the past few years, I and most of my neighbors have noted the alarming rise in the crime rate in our area.

At Jarn Road alone, all 11 homes have been robbed or broken into. For the past three years, our house has been robbed four times. Several businesses in the immediate area have been robbed as well. This rise in criminality is very disappointing especially considering that there does not appear to be any response or any action taken by our local government to address the problem.

How many more homes and businesses will have to suffer before it acts on this problem? Must lives be lost before our local officials are prodded into doing something? What's the use of clean roads, adequate street lighting and impressive infrastructure when residents no longer feel safe in their own homes and have no faith in their police force?

Residents now feel it's necessary to just take matters into their own hands by investing in additional security. Homeowners no longer feel safe and so spend money on building higher walls around their homes. Is this the type of mentality our local government wishes to foster? If so, what purpose does the local police presence serve? In fact, there is very little police presence in the area.

I request our local officials to take quick and decisive action to remedy the problem.

—JULIUS CASTAÑARES,
9 Jarn Road,
Marcos Alvares Avenue,
Talon 5, Las Piñas City

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court through the Committee on Bids invites: a) Dealers/Distributors for Lots 1 to 4; and b) Manufacturers for Lot 5 to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Name of Project	Approved Budget	Source of Funding
LOT 1		
Basic Office Supplies (4th Quarter 2006)	P2,040,066.99	General Appropriations Act – CY 2006
LOT 2		
Paper Supplies (4th Quarter 2006)	P 5,188,376.60	General Appropriations Act – CY 2006
LOT 3		
Printing Supplies (2nd Semester 2006)	P 1,977,740.00	General Appropriations Act – CY 2006
LOT 4		
21 – units Senior Executive Chair (Fabric) 62 – units Junior Excutive Chair (Fabric) 461 – units Clerical Chair with armrest (Fabric) 23 – units Visitor Chair, 4 legged base w/out armrest (Fabric)	P 1,359,320.35	Judiciary Development Fund
LOT 5		
521 – units Filing Cabinet 176 – units Storage Cabinet 80 – units Safe File Cabinet	P 6,791,064.00	Judiciary Development Fund

PERIOD OF DELIVERY:
Thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

I. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The Pre-bid conference will be held on the following schedule:

Project	Date and Time	Venue
Lot 1, 2 & 3	October 5, 2006, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.	Session, 3rd Floor, Old Bldg., Taft Ave., Mla.
Lot 4	October 11, 2006, Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.	Session, 3rd Floor, Old Bldg., Taft Ave., Mla.
Lot 5	November 8, 2006, Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.	Session, 3rd Floor, Old Bldg., Taft Ave., Mla.

II. SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND OPENING OF BIDS

The eligibility requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative, and the bids will be opened, thereafter, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives, to be held on the following schedule:

Project	Date and Time	Venue
Lot 1, 2 & 3	October 19, 2006, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.	Session, 3rd Floor, Old Bldg., Taft Ave., Mla.
Lot 4	October 25, 2006, Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.	Session, 3rd Floor, Old Bldg., Taft Ave., Mla.
Lot 5	November 22, 2006, Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.	Session, 3rdFloor, Old Bldg., Taft Ave., Mla.

Prospective bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Committee on Bids or its Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Interested bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from the **Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Property Division, 3rd Floor Annex Building, Supreme Court**, after payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) for Lot 1, Lot 3 and Lot 4**, and **One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)** for **Lot 2 and Lot 5**, prior to the conduct of pre-bid conference. For additional information, the bidders may contact the **Secretary, Atty. Ennar R.C. Cabanilla** at **telefax no. 5251270** or **Ms. Norma C. Josue** at **tel. no. 5266419**.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to: 1) reject any or all bids, 2) waive any defects or informalities therein, 3) or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

September 20, 2006.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 21 & 28, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 929-95-97 • 929-80-74
Fax Nos. 928-40-38

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) hereby invites interested contractors duly registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board at least "Medium A for Water Treatment Plant and System or Sewerage and Sewage Treatment/ Disposal Plant" to apply for eligibility screening and if eligible, to submit bid for the **Construction of Multi-Species Hatchery** located at Brgy. Latu-latu, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, to be funded from a subsidy under the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-GMA Fisheries and from the Department of Agrarian Reform-Western Mindanao Community Initiatives Project (DAR-WMCIP).

The scope of work of the project includes the following:

A. Site Development and Utilities Works
(Site preparation; perimeter fence and gates; drainage works; outside water distribution system; outside electrical distribution system)

B. Buildings and Facilities
(Concrete reservoir and sand filter fox; concrete broodstock tanks; staff house including elevated water tank; office/ laboratory building including abalone broodstock spawning tanks; larva rearing tanks, abalone tanks; natural food tanks; rotifer tanks and diatom tanks)

The Approved Budget for the Contract is PhP 15M (BFAR – P9M and WMCIP – P6M)

Eligibility/Prequalification documents are available for issuance at the BFAR Property Section at the above address from **October 2-10, 2006**, only upon submission of a Letter of Intent, presentation of the original or authenticated renewal of contractor's license and payment of a non-refundable fee of **P600**.

One (1) original and two (2) photocopies of duly accomplished eligibility statements must be submitted at the BFAR Property Section not later than **October 16, 2006**.

Tender documents shall be issued to eligible contractors starting **November 2, 2006** only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 per set.

Pre-Bid Conference **November 14, 2006** at **2:00 P.M.**

Bids must be submitted at the BFAR not later than 12:00 noon of **November 24, 2006** and shall be opened at **2:00 P.M.** on the same date in the presence of the participating bidders.

For more information, please call the BAC-Secretariat @ tel. nos. 426-3168 or 929-3439.

The BFAR reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any formalities therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI – Sept. 21, 2006)

Baseless report?

THIS PERTAINS TO THE NEWS ITEM "RISE in illegal logging in Caraga linked to polls," written by Franklin Caliguid. (PDI, 9/11/06)

The sweeping report has no basis in fact. It is absurd and very malicious. It is unfair to all Caraga politicians and political leaders.

Apparently, Caliguid only wants to get even with the officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for our refusal to give in to his extortion activities since 2004 and to subscribe to his local newspaper.

The National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (Naectaf) and the DENR Caraga operatives have just concluded their investigation. Their initial findings showed there were only 800 cubic meters of undocumented logs confiscated by my office. They will later be turned over to the Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC), DENR's marketing arm, for proper disposal. The market value of these logs is not even P2 million.

On Aug. 19, 2006, the first day of the DENR-Naectaf operation, Caliguid came out with a news report that 15,800 pieces of illegally cut logs worth P145 million (although no scaling and counting have been done yet) had been confiscated.

We believe Caliguid is being used by smugglers adversely affected by our anti-illegal logging campaign.

—BENJAMIN T. TUMALIUAN,
regional executive director,
Department of Environment and Natural Resources,
Region 12, Caraga Administrative Region,
Ambago, Butuan City

The report objected to by Benjamin Tumaliuan was based on an interview with a reliable source. The figures that he questioned were the same figures used by local media outfits here in their reports.

Tumaliuan's accusations against me obviously came after the publication of my reports on illegal logging activities in his area of responsibility. The reports, which obviously did not favor illegal loggers, belie his allegation that I allowed myself to be used by them.

The respect that I have earned from political, civic and religious leaders in all my years as an INQUIRER correspondent is, I believe, my most eloquent defense against his charge that I engage in extortion.

—FRANKLIN CALIGUID,
correspondent,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ombudsman's power to discipline illegal?

PASAY CITY MAYOR PEEWEE TRINIDAD, Vice Mayor Antonio Calixto and 10 councilors were ordered suspended for 60 days by the Ombudsman for allegedly awarding contracts on garbage collection and disposal without public bidding. The suspension order was served and enforced by Interior Undersecretary Wencelito Andanar and the police led by SPD Senior Supt. Ricardo Padilla. (PDI, 9/7/06)

The Ombudsman's power to discipline and suspend elective officials is unconstitutional. Under Par (3) Sec. 13 Art. XI of the 1987 Constitution, the office has limited investigatory and recommendatory powers. In the INQUIRER issue of Aug. 28, 2000, Leonard de Vera, former spokesperson of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, cited the Supreme Court's Sept. 5 1997 decision in the Garcia Rueda vs Pascacio case, where it ruled: "The powers and functions of the Ombudsman have generally been categorized into the following: investigatory power, prosecutory power, public assistance function, authority to inquire and obtain information and function to adopt, institute and implement preventive measures."

De Vera said, nowhere is it mentioned that the Ombudsman has disciplinary powers. Congress cannot grant additional powers by passing RA 6770, the Ombudsman Act of 1989, like disciplinary powers, which the Constitution has denied the Ombudsman, De Vera added.

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN,
Rositaville Subdivision,
Concepcion I, Marikina City

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AFP says it won't be provoked by MILF

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY WON'T be provoked by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's war posturing over a deadlock in peace talks following President Macapagal-Arroyo's instructions for it to continue heeding a ceasefire agreement with the guerrilla group.

Armed Forces chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday said he received orders from Ms Arroyo, through Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita Jr., to observe the ceasefire agreement that the government entered into with the MILF in 2002.

"The instruction from the President has not changed. The instruction coming from the President is to give primacy to the peace process," Esperon said in a statement.

"The AFP intends to do just that. The AFP will observe all existing regulations. We will observe the ceasefire and the suspension of hostilities," he added.

MILF chief negotiator Mohaqher Iqbal on Tuesday announced the MILF was prepared to go to war if the peace talks collapsed.

The talks broke down earlier this month on the issue of ancestral domain or territory.

"We can afford to go to war. Especially now the government is in a hurry and they are setting aside what we have agreed before," Iqbal said, adding that the MILF was still technically at war with the government.

The military said they have not monitored any massing of MILF forces in their strongholds in Central Mindanao.

The military estimates that the MILF has about 11,000 armed fighters and 8,000 firearms.

Esperon said the military was "confident" the peace talks will continue. "However the AFP is also on the alert for other forces that may intend to take advantage of the situation and sabotage the peace process," he said.

"There might be some provocateurs who might take advantage of this difficulty," he added.

Jesus Dureza, Ms Arroyo's peace adviser, said the President wanted the peace negotiations to move forward.

"As far as the government is concerned and under the instruction of the President, we have to move forward with the peace negotiation. We need it in Mindanao," Dureza said.

Earlier, the MILF warned of a possible collapse of the peace negotiations because of what it views as the government's dilly-dallying tactics.

Murad Ebrahim, MILF chair, said the government was also using the peace talks as an anti-insurgency tool and not a venue to address the Bangsamoro people's demand for their own state.

He said the government has no political will to push hard for a negotiated political settlement of the rebellion when it has the opportunity to move the process to new heights.

"I won't comment on that because everyone is entitled to his own opinion," Dureza said.

Iqbal said the MILF was ready to return to war if the peace talks failed.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the guerrilla group keeps a war footing by holding refresher training courses for its members.

"It's a built-in process within our organization," he said.

Two weeks ago, the peace talks hit a snag after government and rebel negotiators failed to strike a deal on the issue of territory.

The government was offering the MILF at least 600 villages to form part of a future Bangsamoro entity but the rebel group was demanding more.

"The issue on ancestral domain is not simple. There are hard areas to untangle," Dureza said.

But he said the government was optimistic it could still strike a deal with the MILF.

"We are still confident that we can find solutions to some of these issues," he said.

Dureza said government negotiators are back to the drawing board "trying to find out how we can reach a solution to the contentious points in the discussion of ancestral domain."

Despite the apparent deadlock on territorial issues in the talks, a Japanese official said she was confident that peace would dawn on Mindanao.

Sadako Ogata, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), said her government believes that peace in Mindanao is important in the overall development of the Philippines.

"As president of Jica, I would like to continue to explore all possible means to support the efforts on peace and development through dialogue with various stakeholders," she said.

Jica has been helping Mindanao in many ways, including building roads and bridges. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*

WOMEN members of MILF families peer out of a structure in Camp Darapanan, the base of the MILF in Maguindanao, to check out visitors who were allowed entry to the camp for a press conference of guerrilla leaders. JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

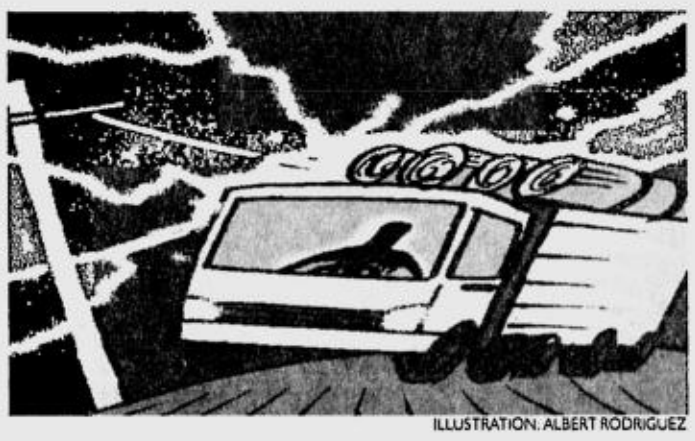


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

1 dead as electricity zaps lumber truck

DIADI, NUEVA VIZCAYA—A 10-wheel truck loaded with lumber was zapped with 10,000 volts of electricity, killing the truck driver and wounding another man in Barangay Nagsabaran here on Monday.

Senior Insp. Joseph dela Cruz, Diadi police chief, said reports indicated that the truck, loaded with about 15,000 board feet of common hardwood species, was owned by Mayor Jose Marie Diaz of Ilagan, Isabela.

Dela Cruz said driver Mario Bayuga tried to force the truck across a power line that sagged in Barangay Nagsabaran at about 10 p.m., causing the vehicle to jolt and catch fire.

Police said Bayuga was electrocuted and suffered severe burns. The truck helper, Andrew Cabalonga, was in critical condition at the Javonillo Hospital in Cordon, Isabela.

Diaz, however, denied owning the truck. He said he had divested himself of his business interests when he assumed the mayoral post after the murder of Ilagan Mayor Delfinito Albano in June.

Diaz said the truck and its cargo were owned by lumber dealer Digna Abad.

Dela Cruz said he suspected that the truck carried illegal cargo, quoting witnesses' accounts that another vehicle, said to be its escort, fled after the incident. He said no shipping document was recovered from the truck.

But Felix Taguba, provincial environment officer of Isabela, said the shipment was legal.

Quoting records from the community environment and natural resources office (Cenro) in Ilagan town, Taguba said the shipment, valued at about P235,000, was to be delivered in Pampanga and Pangasinan.

"It was allowed to pass through Cordon because the shippers showed a complete set of documents. So we are allowing the owner to get [the cargo] back," he said.

The shipment, Taguba said, was covered by a permit issued by Celso Aresta, community environment officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Ilagan.

Taguba said this was part of an estimated 91.3 cubic meters of hardwood lumber that Diaz won in an earlier auction put up by state-owned National Resources Development Corp., the corporate arm of the DENR.

Diadi Mayor Marvic Padilla said the cargo indicated the continued depletion of the country's forests.

"If not for the strong rains and winds that toppled the electric post, this cargo would have slipped past checkpoints again and the unabated cutting of trees in the forests would have gone unnoticed," Padilla said. *Melvin Gascon with reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Ex-NPA chief says air freer now for Left

Commander Bilog sees no Marcos era repression

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY—FOR RODOLFO SALAS, THE chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines and commander of the New People's Army during martial law, the recent killings and other forms of attacks on the Left are not yet near the repressive scale done by the military until 1986.

"Unlike before, there is no general policy of repression and elimination of opposition," Salas, 58, known then as Commander Bilog, said Wednesday on the eve of the 34th anniversary of the imposition of martial rule.

Largely, he said, the government is now "more liberal" and "lenient" to various ideologies and political activities.

"There's has been a democratic system following the ouster of [strongman Ferdinand] Marcos in Edsa I. The CPP is not anymore outlawed with the repeal of the anti-subversion law. The Left has entered the legal arena," he said.

Salas said the CPP and NPA, as well as Bayan Muna, helped install President Macapagal-Arroyo to power in January 2001.

He said the violence, especially in Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog, were initiated by "ultra-rightists factions" within the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He said these were the same cliques on which several administrations have relied.

"These have existed since Edsa I. There is a preponderance of role by the military in government. Even GMA (Ms Arroyo) and groups that want to topple her used the same factions as we saw in the February coup," Salas said.

He declined to name the generals in the factions behind the killings and abductions of political activists. But he said these officers now dominate the AFP.

But why eliminate the Left, the attacks on which, he said, are now confined to members and not key leaders?

"Partly to stifle dissent [against the government] but mainly to strengthen the control of the AFP in the government," he said.

In doing these, he said the ruling clique in the AFP has "taken advantage of the abuses" by the CPP and NPA like "killings, excesses, extortions and disenchantment."

Among the victims include former senior NPA cadres Romulo Kintanar, Arturo Tabara and Bartolome Quizon.

SALAS

Salas said legitimate opposition should watch out against "ultra-rightists" in the military and "extreme leftists" in the CPP and NPA.

He said the current counterinsurgency campaign has not been effective because communist parties and organizations under these have "remained intact" as the leadership are preserved.

"The killings have only created fear. In fact, it is counterproductive because it has driven people to the armed struggle. Many have gone underground [especially in the last two years]," he said.

Martial rule

Starting the eve of the official declaration of martial law (Presidential Decree 1081), Salas said the mass arrests of thousands of people and the crackdown on the political opposition even moderates occurred all over the country.

At that time, he was the secretary of the Central Luzon Committee of the CPP, which was established in 1968, and head of the training department of the NPA that was formed in 1969.

On the night Marcos declared martial law, Salas was in Barangay Sapang Bato in Angeles City, at the periphery of the Clark Air Base, helping Filipino base workers plan a campaign against mass layoffs.

Salas, who was 25 years old then and had finished engineering at the University of the Philippines, was already in hiding because as early as 1971, upon the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, he was in the list of suspected subversives.

"A mere membership in the CPP or any organization tagged by the military as CPP-led was subject to arrest and physical elimination," he said.

Marcos, he said, justified martial rule by bloating the so-called national threat by the NPA.

Camps

Anticipating repression, the CPP and NPA gradually shifted its forces from the cities to the countryside. Alongside, activists sought refuge in the provinces.

The NPA had just over 3,000 fighters and controlled areas in Isabela, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Albay and Camarines Sur in 1972. Because Central Luzon was the main logistics base, the NPA secured over 300 activists in at least 15 camps in Tarlac and 160 others in 10 camps in Pampanga.

"There was a spontaneous retreat," Salas said.

He said the CPP and NPA were weakened tactically because the military employed a two-pronged attack—conducting massive warfare in NPA-held territories alongside forced evacuations of civilians, strafing and massacre while arresting communist leaders.

Escaping prison in Camp Olivas, then the First Philippine Constabulary Zone, after four weeks of detention in May 1973, Salas reintegrated into the CPP and NPA and resumed the rebuilding efforts in Central Luzon.

By 1975, the fighters were down to just over 1,400.

"There were massive losses," he said.

By 1976, he was elected CPP chair and became commander of the NPA a year later. He held these posts until his arrest on Sept. 29, 1986.

"*Dumapa ang mga* regional committees. I was tasked to help rebuild in other regions," he said.

"We shifted to guerrilla warfare, expanded from the mountains to the hills and plains, organized and mobilized peasants and indigenous peoples, expanded the organizing nationwide," he said. "It was a combination of armed and mass struggles."

"Martial rule was not able to destroy the movement," Salas said.

In fact, he pointed out, the CPP and NPA as well as the Moro National Liberation Front drew to its fold the political opposition at a time when some leaders either entered into compromises with the Marcos regime or sought refuge abroad.

"The party managed to provide leadership although it suffered big losses," Salas said.

When Aquino assumed office in 1986, she ordered the release of top leaders of the CPP's central committee and political bureau as a gesture of national reconciliation.

It was at this point that Salas was arrested in Metro Manila when he, as CPP chair, went down to start peace talks with the government.

Salas said then Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo worked out for his release paper, which then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos and Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile blocked to "sabotage" the negotiations.

PALI
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS
Dusk sets in in Tando in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, covering the village in a hue of blue. Tando is one of the areas hardest hit by an oil spill from a tanker that was carrying Petron bunker fuel. The village used to be bountiful in fish and crabs.

Marinduque folk keep up manual cleanup of oil

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—IN AN EFFORT TO rid the shores of Marinduque of oil sludge, villagers from the 15 affected coastal barangays won't cease gathering sand and stones smeared with oil using their bare hands.

Armed with shovels, sacks and gloves, the villagers, in *bayanihan* style, collectively and diligently put the oil-smeared aggregates inside sacks and haul them into the waiting dump trucks of the provincial engineering office.

Provincial employees, also, have started to distribute two kilograms of rice to each affected family under the Food-For-Work program implemented by Gov. Carmencita Reyes.

In the program, only those from the affected barangays who signed up and take part in the cleanup will be provided with the rations of rice.

An unidentified villager, however, remarked that even if there are no rice provisions, they will clean up the shores on their own.

The Marinduque Diving Team, headed by Rico Sanchez, have conducted snorkeling activities in some of the affected barangays Monday afternoon to determine the extent of damage that the oil sludge had caused the coral structures within the area.

"We are glad that an ocular check on the coral structures yielded negative results. We did not find any oil smudges or deposits on the corals. We will continue to monitor and check other areas for possible damages on our marine ecosystems," Sanchez said.

The provincial government, meanwhile, and the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources are still investigating the cause of the oil sludge. *Gerald Gene R. Querubin, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Mayors see treachery in N. Vizcaya 'jueteng'

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZcaya—What should have been a united stand to reject the operations of small town lottery (STL) in this province is now facing doom after pro-STL mayors denounced the continued proliferation of "jueteng" in their colleagues' towns.

Kayapa Mayor Tony Dupiano, secretary general of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) chapter here, said the unabated jueteng bet collection in some towns violated the gentlemen's agreement the mayors had when they vowed to reject both STL and the illegal numbers game.

"It was clear that before we agreed to pass a resolution opposing the entry of STL [in Nueva Vizcaya], we should also condemn jueteng. But bet collections never stopped," said Dupiano.

Police sources, however, said bet collection in lowland towns here were ordered stopped on Monday, a day after Senior Supt. Cesar Javier assumed office as Nueva Vizcaya police director.

The source said operators were ordered to stop as an anti-illegal gambling task force was set to arrive in the province for a crackdown against jueteng operations.

Dupiano said he and a number of mayors supporting STL operations would withdraw their support for the LMP position against STL should jueteng operations continue.

"We (mayors) should not play games with one another. Everyone knows that jueteng can never operate in a locality without the approval of the local chief executive," he said.

Bambang Mayor Pepito Balgos, LMP president here, could not be reached for comment on Wednesday. His office staff said the mayor was in Nueva Ecija for an official engagement.

Dupiano said he and the mayors of at least four mountain towns, where neither STL nor jueteng can operate, agreed to support the LMP resolutions in their desire to cleanse the ranks of local officials here amid charges that they have been receiving favors in exchange for tolerating gambling activities in their areas.

He was referring to allegations that mayors who agreed to endorse the franchise of two operators in February have received at least P50,000 each. This followed revelations that board members were also given P30,000 each to support a measure endorsing STL at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (provincial board).

On Sept. 4, seven mayors signed a manifesto retracting their signatures in a February resolution endorsing STL. Their action, they said, was meant to deny the bribery charges.

The mayors' manifesto was subsequently adopted by the LMP in a meeting last week.

But Dupiano lamented that bet collections for jueteng continued days after the Sept. 13 LMP meeting. He also questioned the motive of the mayors who pushed for the withdrawal of support for STL. *Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

STL firm cries foul over arrest of workers

LUCENA CITY—A FIRM WITH A franchise to run small town lottery in Quezon threatened to file criminal charges against a Camp Crame-based police team over the alleged illegal arrest of at least 19 of its employees and bet collectors in Pagbilao town Tuesday evening.

"Definitely, we will file appropriate criminal charges against the members of the raiding team. The people they arrested are not criminals but legitimate employees of a company engaged in a lawful activity," said Jose Gonzales, operations manager of Pirouette Corp., that has a franchise to run STL in Quezon.

Gonzales assailed the raiders for sabotaging the operation of government-sanctioned lottery.

"What we've been operating in Quezon is a legal game. This is no jueteng, illegal bookies or whatsoever. They should have focused their efforts against those unlawful operations but not us," he said.

"We've been faithfully fulfilling our part of the contract by sharing the proceeds of the operations to local government units, police and PCSO. So we expect cooperation and protection from government authorities and not harassment," he said.

At least 19 persons were arrested by elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's Anti-Illegal Gambling Special Operation Task Force based in Camp Crame in a surprise raid in Barangay Daungan in Pagbilao town at about 9 p.m.

After the arrest, the suspects were immediately hauled to the CIDG provincial office in Camp Nakar.

Earlier reports said police and local government officials were demanding more money from STL.

"We presented all our IDs and official documents from the local government and PCSO but they still arrested us," Jose Defuente, Pirouette-Pagbilao office manager, said.

Defuente alleged the raiders also confiscated all their mobile phones and personal money.

The raiding team already left for Manila before the newsmen arrived.

Gonzales recalled that some months ago, to avoid confusion, Pirouette had already submitted to Camp Crame a complete list of the company's employees, including its sales agents, and also the location of its stations in every municipality.

"But the harassment still continued. And this was the second time that the CIDG raided a legitimate local STL betting station. If their intention is to milk us, they are mistaken," he said.

In May, the same CIDG unit also swooped down on another Pirouette betting station in Tiaong town and arrested company employees and bet collectors. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Schistosomiasis infection rate alarms WHO exec

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR—AN official of the World Heath Organization (WHO) raised an alarm over the growing number of cases of schistosomiasis among schoolchildren in the province.

Schistosomiasis, or bilharzia, is a snail-borne disease. It is sometimes called snail fever. The disease can be easily treated at its early stage with praziquantel, an antiparasitic and de-worming agent.

Although it has a low mortality rate, schistosomiasis, which can be contacted through wading in fresh water or drinking contaminated water, can be very devastating.

If left untreated, schistosomiasis can be hard to cure and can damage liver, lungs, intestines, or bladder.

Lester Chitsulo, WHO representative who visited the province last week, said the disease was monitored in at least 13 of the province's 14 towns.

The team is still conducting more tests on schoolchildren in other towns to know the extent of the infection, he said.

Chitsulo said based on the results of the initial study conducted by the University of the Philippines' National Health Institute, it was found that the water-borne disease is "notably high in Bunawan and Trento towns."

He said the study, conducted in August this year, showed that 507 out of 1,497 schoolchildren tested positive in Trento while 81 out of 351 were infected in Bunawan.

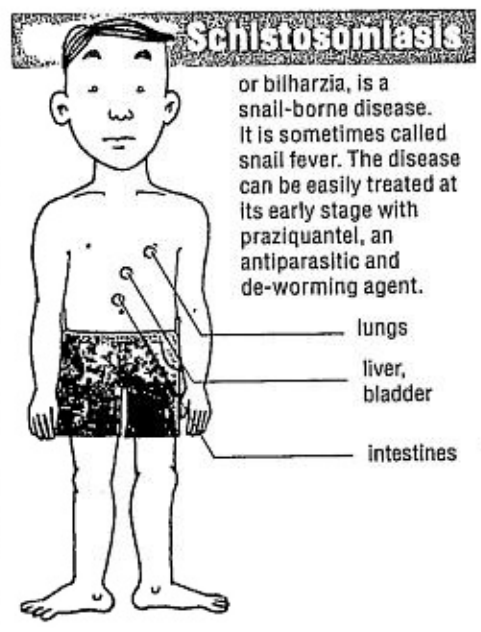
Among the symptoms found on affected children in Trento and Bunawan were abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia, fever, headache, dizziness and allergic reactions.

Only Sibagat town, which is in the northern boundary of the province, was found to be schistosomiasis-free.

Dr. Vicente Belizario, head of the UP-NHI survey team, said there was a great possibility that the number of cases will increase if local health officials fail to take immediate action.

Jesusisimo Ronquillo, provincial administrator, said even some government employees were found positive of schistosomiasis when they recently went for a checkup in Tagum City.

Dr. Sandra Tiu, team leader of the provincial health office, said the province has medical equipment that can conduct tests. *Chris Panganiban, Inquirer Mindanao*



PNP sacks Leyte town cop chief over 'swertres'

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE PHILIPpine National Police relieved Monday a town police chief for failing to stop illegal gambling in his area.

Senior Supt. William Valencia, provincial police director, said he relieved Insp. Graciano Sanijon as chief of police of Bato town last Monday after he failed to stop "swertres."

Swertres is an underworld lottery that derives its results from the state-run lotto.

"We are serious in our drive to stamp out the operations of illegal gambling in Leyte and his relief was an indication of this effort to address this illegal activity," Valencia told the INQUIRER.

The PNP transferred Sanijon, who was the chief of police of Bato since October last year, to the 802nd Mobile Patrol Group based in Baybay town.

Insp. Nestor Arundain, who was the deputy leader of the same patrol group, replaced the sacked police chief.

Arundain said that ending the proliferation of the illegal numbers game was one of his priorities as the new police chief of Bato, a fourth class municipality with over 32,000 residents.

Valencia said that other towns in the province face the same problem.

One mayor, Juanito Renomeron of Burauen, admitted that swertres is rampant in his town.

British head of Cebu school faces probe for discrimination

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A BRITISH NAtional who heads an international school here would be investigated by the Bureau of Immigration as a result of complaints that he was "anti-Filipino."

Geronimo Rosas, BI Central Visayas director, said Mark Bretherton, head of the Cebu International School, would be investigated also for not having a renewed work permit from the Department of Labor and Employment.

Bretherton is CIS superintendent for six years.

The Cebu International School Faculty Association (Cisfa) opposed his application for a renewal of work permit, accusing him of discrimination against Filipinos and violating the Labor Code.

According to Rosas, his office has yet to receive any complaint "by any citizen who was aggrieved by Bretherton's alleged anti-Filipino attitude."

He said his office would still investigate even without a formal complaint.

Rosas said his office would coordinate with the police, the National Bureau of Investigation and concerned citizens in the investigation.

"What is really his standing in the community? We will ask people to substantiate their allegations and it should be under oath," he said.

Rosas also said he would check the status of Bretherton's work permit.

Married to a Filipina, Bretherton's overseas-hire-superintendent contract with CIS runs until 2008 to 2009. He was earlier issued a work permit on Aug. 7, 2003, which expired last June 30.

Elias Canayong, DOLE Central Visayas director, in his Aug. 29 order, canceled and revoked the permit of the British national after the international school failed to submit proof that no Filipino could do Bretherton's work.

Cayanong also took into consideration the allegations of Cisfa that Bretherton was discriminatory against Filipinos. He was once quoted as calling "Filipinos as mongoloids."

Bretherton, through his lawyer, Erlinda Ramos, denied the allegations, which she said were malicious and baseless.

She said they are seeking reconsideration of the DOLE's order and added they would go up to the Supreme Court should their appeal be denied.

The lawyer said DOLE has until today to resolve their motion for reconsideration.

Ramos also said the BI's move was premature and uncalled for since the DOLE order has not become final and executory.

However, she assured that her client was willing to face any investigation saying that all allegations about him being anti-Filipino were false.

"I think BI should hold in abeyance whatever investigation they would be doing because there is no official order yet and there has been no official complaint. But again, we are not scared of any investigation," she said.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Children of slain leftists pursue justice

By Niña Catherine Calleja
Liliw, Laguna

CHILDREN AND RELATIVES of left-wing activists killed since 2001 when President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed power have organized themselves to pursue justice for their loved ones and to denounce the unending murders.

Glen Malabanan, 22, is hoping to continue her father's advocacy work. She recently resigned from her work in an accountancy firm in Bay, Laguna to join the Martir ng Bayan-Timog Katagalugan and "expose" human rights violations allegedly perpetrated by the government.

Romy Malabanan, secretary general of the party-list group Bayan Muna in Bay, Laguna, was shot dead in front of his house on Dec. 23, 2003. He previously headed the farmers' organization, Pagkakaisa ng Ugnayan ng mga Magbubukid sa Laguna, and was a member of the executive committee of another peasant organization, the Kalipunan ng Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan.

He was also the executive assistant and close confidante of Bay Mayor Edwin Ramos.

When her father, an activist and staunch critic of the government since 1990, was killed, purportedly by a military agent, Glen was a third year student of the Laguna College of Business and Arts, taking an accountancy course.

She said her family experienced financial difficulties after Romy's death. "He had raised us with all things provided, especially for our schooling," she said.

"I have lost trust in the Arroyo administration. It has been three years and yet my father's case was only shelved. No culprit was convicted and I have not seen any development in the case," Glen said.

Reports from the militant human rights group Karapatan-Southern Tagalog show that Malabanan was one of the 63 farmers killed in Southern Tagalog since 2001.

None of the 142 cases of political killings in Southern Tagalog since 2001 has also been solved, Glen said. "All of the relatives of the victims must call for justice. It is something that we owe to them (victims) and the people," she stressed.

Ms Arroyo has created the Melo Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo, to look into the killings, apparently prompted by appeals from international human rights watchdogs. Military officials have pointed to communist assassins as responsible for some of the killings.

Like Glen, Joselito delos Santos, 12, who is fondly called Butchokoy by family members, said he would join rallies to call on Ms Arroyo to step down.

He is the son of Nicanor "Ka Kano" delos Santos, a Dumagat leader, who was killed by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Task Force Panther on Dec. 8, 2001, while he was participating in activities commemorating Human Rights Day.

GLEN Malabanan, daughter of slain peasant leader Romy Malabanan, and other protesters hold pictures of their loved ones in a march in Sta. Rosa City in Laguna.
NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA

Ka Kano was accused by the military of plotting to assassinate the President. His case is among the 12 to be raised against the Arroyo administration by the left-wing Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas before the United Nations Human Rights Council in Switzerland.

Together with some 140 relatives of other slain activists, Glen and Joselito joined the Martir ng Bayan-TK in Laguna which was formally launched on Sept. 11 to continue the work that their parents started. As the group's secretary-general, Glen coordinates with the other victims' relatives.

Enduring the heat, Glen and Joselito joined 1,000 protesters in a five-day march from Laguna to Metro Manila, starting Sunday, to condemn the political killings. They had already walked from Calamba City to Sta. Rosa City in Laguna.

At about 6 last night, the marchers were expected to reach the Alabang Viaduct area where they were to be welcomed by a contingent from Metro Manila with flag dances and a torch parade.

They were expected to arrive in Manila today, the 34th anniversary of the declaration of martial law by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Model teacher in Quezon spares the rod

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

HANDLING A CLASSROOM full of energetic, albeit mischievous, children requires much patience and perseverance from teachers. But Ofelia Lavarez-Loñoza chooses an unorthodox approach in her Grade 1 class.

Her most effective tack in disciplining her pupils? Silence.

Five days a week for the past 40 years, Loñoza, 60, has been keeping her vow to steer young minds in the quest for knowledge, hurdling the challenges and frustrations common in the public school system.

Her dedication was not lost on her fellow teachers and superiors at the Lucena North I Elementary School in Barangay 1 in Lucena City. She was nominated and eventually chosen as one of Metrobank Foundation's 10 Outstanding Teachers of 2006 for which she received a P250,000 cash prize and trophy.

The winners' schools were given plaques of recognition and financial assistance for faculty development.

President Macapagal-Arroyo conferred on the awardees the symbolic gold medallions for serving as models of excellence in the teaching profession.

"I never pinch or slap my students. I just stop talking when I'm angry, and my students would pick up the cue that I'm asking them to behave. It's quite effective," she said.

She said she never shouted at her students. "Young as they are, shouting will just frighten them."

Loñoza said she had raised her children "without the need for me to shout at them just to instill discipline."

Occasionally, though, she admitted that she ordered erring pupils to stand in a corner of the room as punishment.

She often advised new Grade 1 teachers to avoid using a stick.

She opposed a reported plan of the Department of Education to require applicants for teaching positions in public schools to pass psychological tests amid increasing reports of teachers inflicting physical harm on students.

"There's no need for that measure. I believe no teacher wants to harm children. We all want our pupils to learn, we only have different approaches," she said.

Showing her devotion to her pupils, she also often provides after-class tutorials or summer make-up sessions to slow learners.

"I often come home late. After school, I provide extra time to some of my students for them to be able to cope with the rest of the class. Together, we review the day's lesson. Even during summer vacation, I also offer make-up class for the slow learners free of charge," Loñosa said.

She noted that most of the government-issued textbooks did not satisfy the actual educational needs of students. To make up for the shortage of relevant textbooks, Loñoza has been producing books in English and Pilipino which she herself conceptualized, designed and edited.

"Most of my reading materials are crudely crafted. The texts and drawings are all handwritten. I approach prospective donors to shoulder the cost of photocopying the pages, which I bind together into a book. I give them all to my pupils for free," she said.

Loñoza said one of her former students volunteered his services for free and produced a computerized copy of her handwritten materials.

Benny Brizuela, a Lucena native who is into the printing business in Manila, has also offered to donate 5,000 copies of one of her books titled "Halinang Magbasa."

"I'm doing this because it is important for the kids to first learn how to read. Before, I was making multiple copies using several sheets of carbon paper so that my pupils will have something to read at home," Loñoza said.

Her colleagues at the Lucena Public School has staged a motorcade around the city as a tribute to the honor brought by Loñoza to them.

Fully aware of the problems of lack of classrooms nationwide, Loñoza appealed to Malacañang to address the perennial issue.

"A classroom should be a place conducive to learning, especially among young minds," she explained. The ideal number of students in every class should not be more than 40 for an effective learning process, she said.

At present, she handles 56 pupils in a small but tidy classroom filled with multicolored educational materials hanging and pasted on the walls to create an encouraging and relaxed educational setting.

LOÑOZA DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

To make up for the shortage of relevant textbooks, Loñoza has been producing books in English and Pilipino which she herself designed and edited

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₱47-B bill approved, now awaits GMA nod

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RATIfied late Tuesday the final version of the P46.9-billion supplemental budget for 2006, paving the way for its signing into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The swift plenary approval was made possible after House appropriations committee chair Joey Salceda of Albay convinced members of the lower house to accept the Senate version, thus obviating the need for a bicameral conference meeting.

"The passage of the supplemental budget is imperative to provide authority for expenditures that are not in the reenacted 2005 budget but are either mandatory by virtue of law, or necessary for the welfare of our public servants," said Salceda.

The supplemental budget will cover the gaps in funding after Congress failed to pass the P1 trillion 2006 budget because of Senate cuts, forcing the government to operate on a reenacted 2005 budget.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles expects the bill's final version to be signed by the President "at the soonest possible time."

In a statement from Havana, Cuba, Speaker Jose de Venecia credited the "judicious efforts" of Salceda, Nograles and all the members of the House, including the "constructive cooperation" of Minority Leader Francis Escudero, for the budget approval.

No major changes

"This is our commitment to the Filipino People. I commend all the members of the House and thank the Senators for their statesmanship for the sake of our people," De Venecia said.

Nograles said the House plenary agreed to all the amendments the Senate made on the House supplemental budget version contained in the 2006 General Appropriations Act.

He said no major changes were proposed by the Senate except for some realignments in the funds distribution among departments which would not affect the overall funding request for the national government to seek spending authorization from Congress.

Salceda explained that there were no major differences in both the House and the Senate versions.

The Senate approved on Sept. 15 the Malacañang-proposed supplemental budget almost in its entirety, except for some realignment of funds from some agencies to the Department of Education (DepEd).

The biggest appropriation in the budget at P14.8 billion will cover the increase in the internal revenue allotment of local government units.

The DepEd got the second biggest share of P9.581 billion. This amount includes provisions for the hiring of 10,000 new teachers, the building of more schools and the payment of long-overdue benefits for thousands of teachers and nonteaching staff.

The senators also appropriated P3.3 billion to cover the deficiency of the national government in unpaid premium payments to the Government Service Insurance System for the period July 1997 to December 1998.

The budget of the DoTC was reduced by P2 billion with the deletion of the equity rental fee, while some P14 million was cut from the budget of the Professional Regulation Commission.

With the passage of supplemental budget, the House will now shift its attention to next year's budget. Salceda had already informed Nograles, the chair of the committee on rules, that he would sponsor in plenary next week the proposed P1.137-trillion 2007 General Appropriations Act.

"We will have the plenary debates the following week and hopefully finish plenary consideration the week after," Nograles said.

Based on its time table, Congress in plenary could approve the proposed 2007 budget before it adjourns on Oct. 14, according to Nograles.

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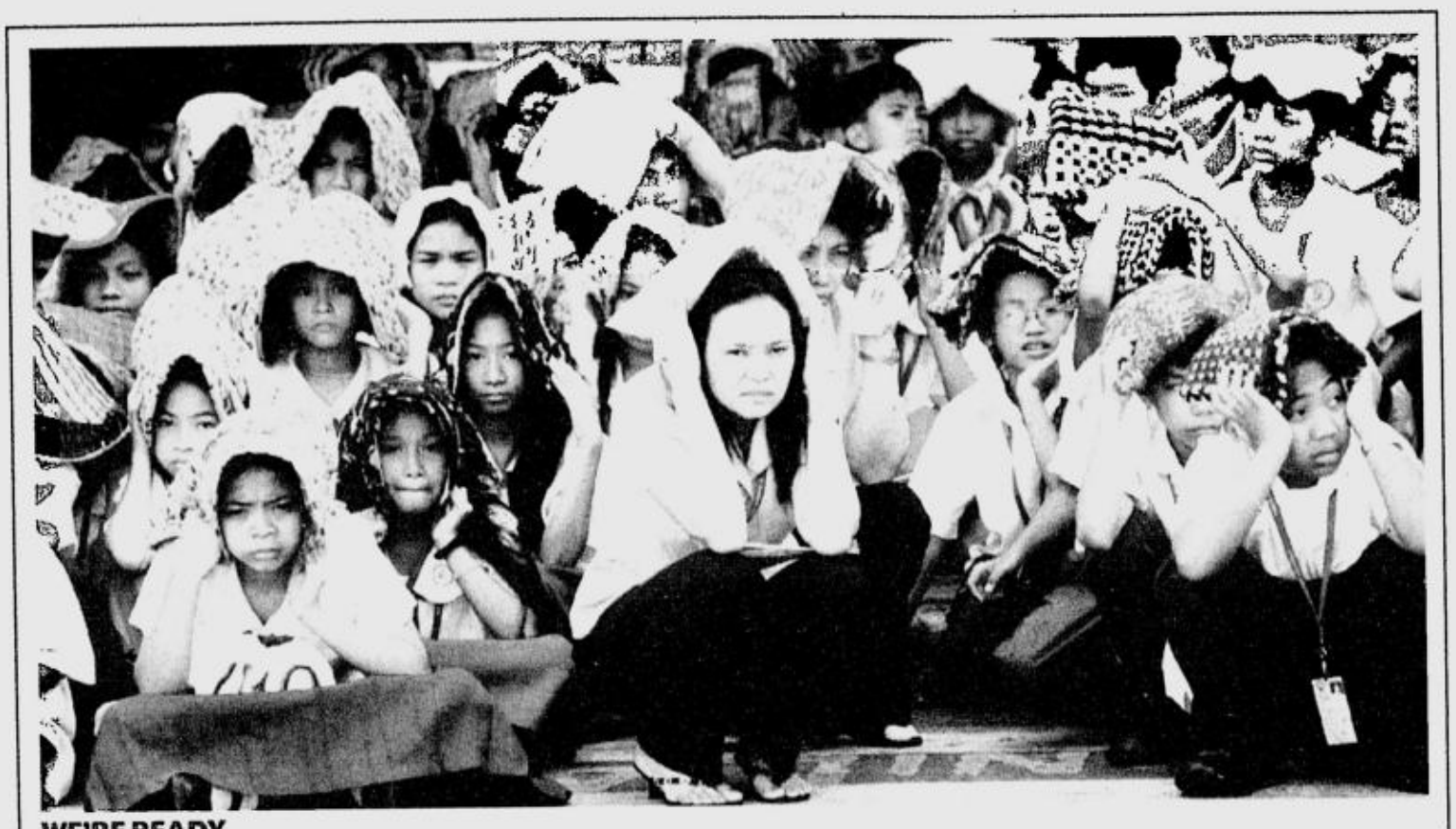
A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Bar manager sues PBA coach

Complainant asks court for ₱700,000 in damages

VICTORIA


WE'RE READY
A teacher and her students crouch on the ground, their heads protected by doormats, at the Arellano High School in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Public schools nationwide yesterday held a simultaneous earthquake drill, the second for this year. ERIK ARAZAS

By DJ Yap

AN ASSISTANT COACH OF THE Philippine Basketball Association has been charged with committing lascivious acts by a bar manager in Quezon City.

Emmanuel "Boybits" Victoria Jr., who coaches the Coca-Cola Tigers, was accused of making unwanted sexual advances toward the 26-year-old woman, who manages a bar on E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue in Bagumbayan.

In a complaint filed at the Quezon City prosecutor's office on Tuesday, the woman said the former basketball player touched her in inappropriate places when he visited the bar on the night of July 14 until after midnight the next day.

The complainant said she was seeking P500,000 in moral damages, P100,000 in exemplary damages and another P100,000 in lawyer's fees.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Victoria for comment.

According to the complaint, Victoria went to the bar on July 14. As she was talking to a guest, she said the basketball coach suddenly embraced her, wrapped his right arm around her neck and then kissed her on the jaw and neck.

The woman said she was so shocked that she was not able to ward him off right away, adding that she even suffered from a coughing fit afterward due to the strong pressure exerted on her neck.

Victoria then sent her text messages, saying he wanted to spent the night with her, the woman said in her complaint.

She added that when she went to her superior to complain about Victoria's actions, the basketball coach approached her from behind and grabbed her breasts.

At this point, the woman said she turned around to slap him on the face. But because of the latter's height, she only managed to scratch his face.

According to her, her bosses eventually asked Victoria to leave the bar. But before he left, he repeated his invitation for her to spend the night with him, she added.

The woman said she reported the incident to the P. Tuazon Boulevard, Project 4 Police Station on July 28.

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13 youthful offenders reunited with their parents

By Margaux C. Ortiz

PERCIVAL (NOT HIS REAL NAME), A 13-YEAR-OLD BOY DETAINED for robbery, was in high spirits as he faced a crowd of social workers and parents at the Manila City Hall yesterday morning.

"We are so thankful that we were a given a chance to get out of jail and reunite with our families," Percival, in a soft but unwavering voice, said in Filipino.

"You can be sure we will not waste this golden opportunity," stressed the teenager who looked small for his age.

Percival was one of 13 minors—aged 15 years old and below—in the first batch of children in conflict with the law (CICL) to be released from the Manila Youth Reception Center (MYRC) to their parents' custody.

The MYRC is a rehabilitation center for youthful offenders.

Mayor Lito Atienza said the project was in accordance with Republic Act 9344 or the Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Welfare Act, which was signed in May 2006.

"I think we are the first local government unit to fully implement this new law," Atienza told reporters after the turnover ceremony yesterday.

He stressed that he could not think of any jail that could give inspiration and hope to children.

"Society and government can only do so much for these children; only their families can ensure their proper upbringing," Atienza said.

Manila Department of Social Welfare (DSW) chief Jose Baranda said a total of 24 CICLs would be sent home this month.

He added that most youth offenders in the MYRC were residents of Tondo who were apprehended for robbery, theft and sniffing rugby.

Star City resumes operations

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PASAY CITY GOVERNMENT yesterday allowed Star City to resume operations although acting Mayor Allan Panaligan warned of "drastic measures" should another incident occur inside the amusement park.

Two of the park's attractions, however—the Wild River and Kiddie Bumper rides—will remain closed.

Panaligan ordered the closure of Star City on Tuesday after one of the cars in the Kiddie Bumper ride emitted sparks and smoke on Monday. The 3-year-old girl who was riding in the car was unhurt although her parents complained that park employees did not help their child.

Earlier, the amusement park was forced to shut down its Wild River ride after a 13-year-old girl accidentally fell to her death while riding in one of the attraction's log boats last week.

Panaligan said the two rides would remain closed until park officials have complied with safety measures recommended by City Engineer Edwin Javaluyas.

ACTRESS Claudine Barretto (right) walks past a group of star-struck Quezon City Hall employees who stepped out of their offices just to see her and her husband, actor Raymart Santiago. The couple were in court yesterday in connection with the case they filed against magazine editor Jo-Ann Maglipon. RAFFY LERMA

Editor violated our right to privacy, actor tells court

By Bayani San Diego Jr. and DJ Yap

ACTION STAR RAYMART SANTIago yesterday testified that editor Jo-Ann Maglipon did not ask him or his wife, actress Claudine Barretto, for permission when she published pictures of the couple's houses in her magazine.

According to Barretto's lawyer, Raymund Fortun, Santiago told Judge Ramon Cruz of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 223 that "the photographs of their houses that appeared in the September 2004 issue of the magazine that Maglipon edits, came out without their consent or permission."

Fortun told the INQUIRER that Santiago also testified that the article that accompanied the photos "violated not just our right to privacy, but also the security rules of our village. The story even showed our exact home address."

"I was surprised when the article came out. I felt violated. This kind of practice showed proof of irresponsible journalism," the actor said in court.

Santiago took the witness stand in behalf of Barretto who filed a civil case against Maglipon last year.

In her petition, Barretto asked a Quezon City court to "forever restrain" Maglipon from getting within 250 meters of her, claiming the editor of Yes! Magazine published unauthorized pictures of her in unguarded moments and wrote articles that had cast her in a bad light.

Maglipon countered by filing seven counts of libel against the actress for picturing her as a "rude, uneducated, insensitive person who would resort to illegal, dangerous and even fraudulent means in order to earn a living."

Barretto was present at the hearing, along with Ellen Veza, another lawyer.

Maglipon's counsel, Sandra Coronel, meanwhile, said, "We maintain our position that the claim to privacy of Claudine through Raymart is not as important as freedom of the press. After all, they are celebrities who solicit adulation." She added that the couple's houses were still a matter of public interest and, therefore, within the realm of free expression.

Libel cases against newsmen unfair

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FIRST GENTLEMAN MIKE ARROYO HAS FILED a libel complaint against me and the editors of the INQUIRER, as well as the staff of sister publication Bandera, with the Manila prosecutor's office.

I saw a copy of the complaint documents, Tuesday. What was appalling was the address given by complainant Jose Miguel Arroyo: Malacañang Palace, Manila.

Wow! I said to myself. How would the 42 journalists that Mr. Arroyo has sued for libel stand a chance of being acquitted in our courts?

The prosecutors, who handle the First Gentleman's libel complaints, report to the secretary of justice. The justice secretary is a Cabinet member who is beholden to the President for his position. The complainant is the President's husband.

When the prosecutors file the cases with the courts—as surely they will—which judge will acquit the hapless journalists, especially those judges who entertain thoughts of being appointed to the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court?

Every judge's ambition is to be appointed to the appellate court or the high tribunal. The appointing authority is the President, the wife of complainant Jose Miguel T. Arroyo.

* * *

The libel cases that Mr. Arroyo has filed against me and my brothers Erwin and Raffy have the effect of muzzling our freedom of expression, in particular, and freedom of the press, in general.

I've been advised by well-meaning friends to keep quiet in order not to further anger the First Gentleman.

But anyway, here's my parting shot at my erstwhile close friend:

Insofar as my brothers and I are concerned, we have no choice but to fight back in the interest of the oppressed and the downtrodden whom we were fighting for until our TV show and my radio program were taken off the air.

When you oppress us, it is the small people who are hurt more. These people have been deprived of two forums, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" and "Isumbong Mo! (Tulfo Brothers), to air their grievances against their oppressors.

But while you may think we will fight you in your backyard basketball court, we will not do that. We will seek a suspension of all libel cases you have filed against us from the Department of Justice. If need be, we will go all the way to the Supreme Court.

We will seek the suspension of the libel cases until the end of Ms Arroyo's term as the President of the Republic.

How can we expect due process and justice when the First Gentleman's wife, the sitting President, is by law the boss of those before whom he has filed criminal charges?

If only for the age-old value of delicadeza, he should not put such a heavy burden on the DOJ.

Anyway, we've been advised by our lawyer-friend Vicente Chuidian to fight on because what Arroyo is doing is an actionable wrong even in the World Court at the Hague.

It is when freedom of expression is so blatantly curtailed that political killings and other human rights abuses can be so easily perpetrated and concealed.

Let us see what world opinion and the international jurists have to say.

METRO BRIEFS

In trouble

THE CHIEF of the Manila Police District (MPD) yesterday ordered the filing of charges against two policemen who allegedly shot to death a vendor and wounded two others in Tondo, Manila last Monday. MPD acting director Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa said suspects PO1 Daniel Villanueva and PO2 Allan Trinidad were positively identified by witnesses as the policemen who fired at a group of teenagers in Tondo. The shots fired, however, hit Carmelita Billiones, killing her and wounding two other vendors, Allan Maglangcay and Amelita Quismundo.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Robbed

THIEVES broke into the Galilee Internet Cafe in Barangay Parang, Marikina City, carting away 20 computers worth almost P300,000. The burglary was discovered on Tuesday morning, prompting the police to ask business owners in the city to take precautions. "We urge owners to secure their shops. They can use good padlocks and other deterrents," city police chief Supt. Sotero Ramos told the INQUIRER.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Police raid

THREE people were arrested at midnight yesterday after the police raided a house in Taguig City that was reportedly operating as a cybersex den. Regie Gonzales, 26 and Anna Marie Gabato, 26, alleged operators of the establishment, were arrested, along with one of their employees. The police carried out the raid after placing the house on F. Manalo Street in Barangay Calzada Tipas under surveillance for several days. City police chief Supt. Alfred Corpus said charges were being readied against the suspects.

Jocelyn R. Uy

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PHILRICE PHILIPPINE RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Rice Research Institute, through the Government of the Philippines intends to apply the sum of ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP1,100,000.00) being the approved budget for the contract for Public Bidding 06-0002. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Philippine Rice Research Institute now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 5 UNITS BRAND NEW MECHANICAL TRANSPLANTER (4 ROW, WALKING TYPE) AND 4 SETS HANDTRACTOR (COMPLETE w/ ACCESSORIES). Delivery of Goods is required within thirty (30) days after receipt of the approved Purchase Order. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may inspect Bidding Documents and obtain further information from PhilRice located at Brgy. Maligaya, Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija during office hours from 8.00 to 5.00pm
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on September 21 to 28, 2006 during regular office hours from 8.00am to 5.00pm upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP5,000.00). The method of payment will be in form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.
6. PhilRice will hold a pre-bid conference open to all interested parties on September 27, 2006; 2:00PM at PhilRice, Training Rm 3, Laboratory Bldg., Maligaya, Science City of Munoz, N.E.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the BAC thru the Supply Office on or before 10 October 2006, 1:45PM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check payable to PhilRice equivalent to one (1%) percent of the ABC or Eleven Thousand Pesos and 00/100 only (PhP11,000.00). Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on October 10, 2006 2:00PM at Training Room 3. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
9. PhilRice reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) HAZEL JANE M. ORGE
Vice Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 21, 2006)

WHO still lacks funding to fight bird flu

AUCKLAND—THE WORLD Health Organization still lacks half the funds it needs to help countries fight bird flu as more human cases are expected in the coming months, the acting director general said.

WHO needs $90 million to $100 million over a two-year period, but has only received about half that amount, Anders Nordstrom told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"We have still not been able to fill the gap. There's still a shortfall," Nordstrom said. "We still are able to respond when there are outbreaks, but to be able to really work with countries to build up good surveillance systems and information systems, we do need more resources."

He said individual countries also need to come up with more funding to help strengthen surveillance and rapid-response systems within their borders.

International donors in January pledged $1.9 billion in Beijing to help fight bird flu and prepare for a pandemic, but only a portion of that money has been disbursed.

Nordstrom spoke on the sidelines of the weeklong annual WHO Western Pacific regional meeting in Auckland, New Zealand, which brings together health officials from across the Asia-Pacific to set the organization's strategic agenda for coming years.

Bird flu has remained a top item on the meeting's agenda for the third straight year. Experts fear the H5N1 virus will mutate into a form that spreads easily among people, potentially sparking a pandemic. So far, most human cases have been linked to contact with infected birds.

As the cooler months approach, Nordstrom said another spate of poultry outbreaks and human infections will likely emerge, but added that many countries have made great strides to combat the virus.

Representatives from nearly 20 countries pledged their support and vowed to continue working together to prepare for a worst-case scenario, with several Pacific island nations requesting help in monitoring migratory birds.

The H5N1 virus has killed at least 144 people since it began ravaging Asian poultry stocks in late 2003.

On Tuesday, delegates also tackled the topic of chronic ailments such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer, which are the world's No. 1 killers, causing 35 million deaths a year—60 percent of all deaths worldwide. Globally, 1 billion people are overweight or obese, according to the WHO.

"What we have before us is an overwhelming pandemic of chronic diseases," said Robert Beaglehole, director of the WHO's Geneva-based chronic diseases department.

Just as countries taxed tobacco and decreased advertising, governments can do the same for sugary drinks and fatty foods, he said. Children and teenagers also can be offered healthy foods in school and be encouraged to exercise.

Noncommunicable diseases are blamed for seven out of every 10 deaths among the Western Pacific region's 1.8 billion people. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

'Croc hunter' gets high-energy farewell

BEERWAH, Australia—Family, friends, fans and movie stars on Wednesday bade a final farewell to "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin in a high-energy memorial service fueled by laughter, tears and music. Irwin's American widow Terri and her two children appeared in public for the first time since the daredevil naturalist's death in a freak stingray attack two weeks ago to hear a wave of emotional tributes to the Aussie hero. But it was his stunningly poised daughter, 8-year-old Bindi, who stole the show and brought the 5,000 mourners to their feet and to tears when she hailed her dad's work and pledged to follow in his footsteps. *AFP*

Mine explosion in Kazakhstan kills 18

ALMATY, Kazakhstan—A methane explosion tore through a Kazakh coal mine on Wednesday, killing 18 miners and leaving 25 others unaccounted for, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. The blast occurred at the Lenin mine in the northern region of Karaganda, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. Some 374 miners were working underground at the time of the explosion, ITAR-Tass said, citing a representative of the Mittal Steel Temirtau company, which owns the mine. Stanislav Sytnik, a Karaganda regional emergencies official, said four miners were confirmed dead. *AP*

Five nations to fund cheap drugs

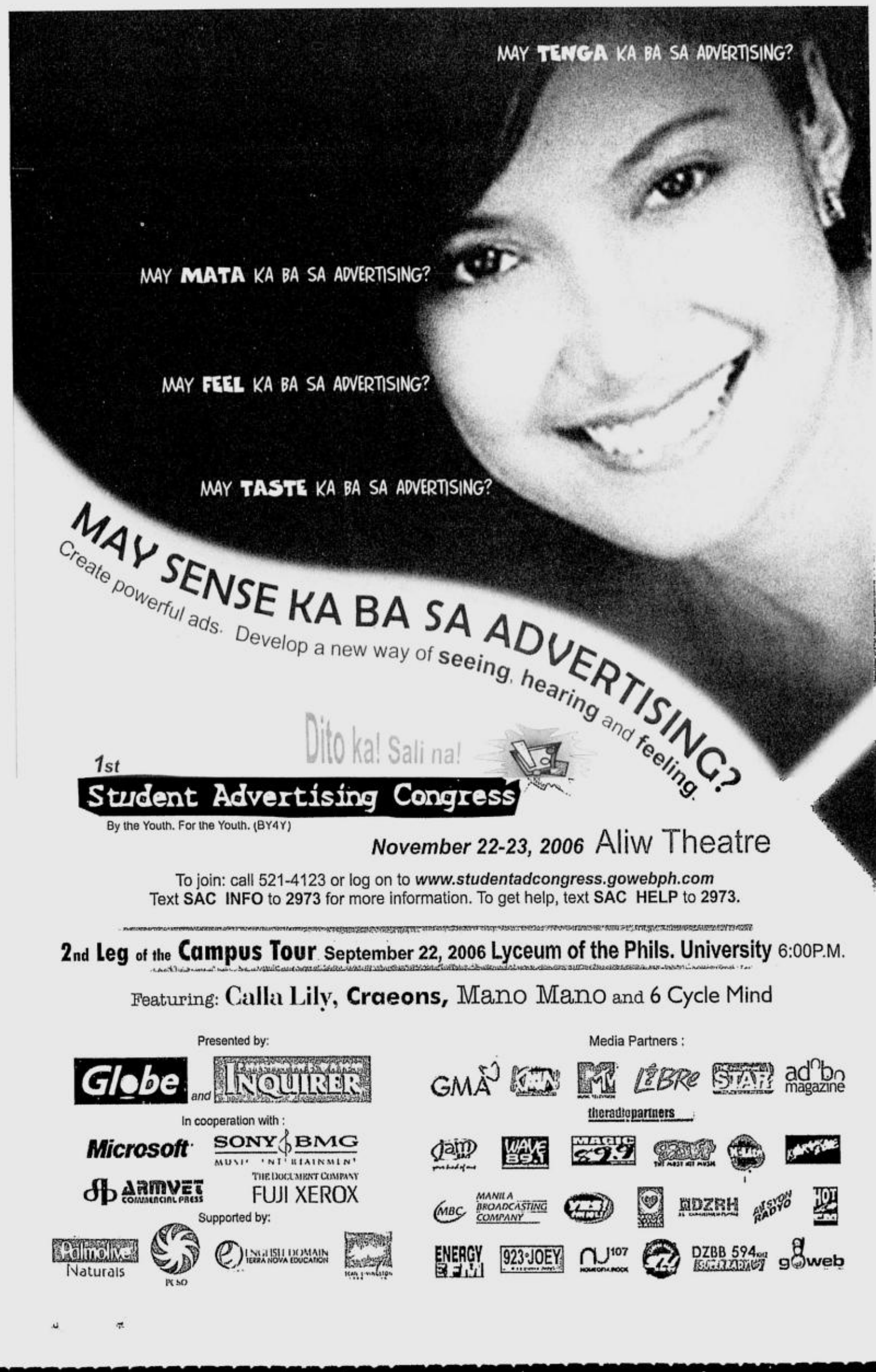
NEW YORK—Brazil, Britain, Chile, France and Norway formally announced a plan to fund cheap drugs for AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis for developing nations by raising taxes on airline tickets. The group will work with former US President Bill Clinton's foundation to negotiate discounts with drug companies and will channel their efforts through Unitaid, a new organization announced along with the plan on Tuesday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. "How can so many people go hungry in a world so full of riches," Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said when the official announcement was made Tuesday. He said lack of drugs in developing nations "is another form of hunger." *AFP*

Floods kill 31 people in India

HYDERABAD—Torrential rains and floods have killed at least 31 people over the past two days in the southeastern state of Andhra Pradesh, officials said Wednesday. Around 5,000 people have been evacuated to safer areas and many villages were cut off after roads and railway tracks were submerged when rivers in the state overflowed their banks. Most deaths were due to collapsed houses, or people swept away by floodwaters, said G. T. Priyadarshini, a relief official. *AP*

Suicide truck bomb kills 7 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A suicide truck bomb slammed into a police headquarters building in Baghdad on Wednesday, destroying the building and killing seven policemen, police said. Another 14 people, including at least one civilian, were wounded in the attack in the southern Baghdad neighborhood of Dora, said police Capt. Jamil Hussein, adding the number of casualties was likely to increase. AP



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Roxas Boulevard Corner Vito Cruz Street
Manila 1004

DEPARTMENT ORDER 27-06

TO : **ALL INSURANCE COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN THE PHILIPPINES**

SUBJECT : **CAPITALIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LIFE, NON-LIFE, AND REINSURANCE COMPANIES**

WHEREAS, stable and reliable insurance and insurance systems, greatly influence the country's economic development by impacting the level of capital formation and allocation and engendering consumer confidence in the systemic integrity of the financial system;

WHEREAS, capitalization is one of the most vital financial rating factors for insurance companies: The Philippines has one of the lowest capital requirements among Asian countries which has hampered the ability of local insurance companies to compete at least with ASEAN and other regional players in this period of economic globalization;

WHEREAS, current minimum capitalization requirements are inadequate relative to:

a. The needed business infrastructures and quality management team that will ensure better service to all stakeholders and expand its market penetration; and
b. The adequate allowance for increased business volatility and for mitigating market imperfections;

WHEREAS, capital bases must be rebuilt because low capitalization levels have resulted in low retention ratios and heavy reliance on reinsurance;

WHEREAS, the solvency positions of insurers must be secured and stable capital bases reduce insolvency risk and afford better protection for the insuring public;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the provision of Section 188 of the Insurance Code, as amended, the following are hereby promulgated:

I. Any licensed wholly Filipino-owned domestic **life or non-life insurance company** existing, operating, or otherwise doing business in the Philippines, licensed as of the effectivity of this Order, must possess of capitalization hereunder specified in accordance with the following schedule of compliance:

	Minimum Statutory Net Worth	Minimum Paid-Up Capital	By (Compliance Date)
A.	Php 100 Million	Php 50 Million	December 31, 2006
B.	Php 150 Million	Php 75 Million	December 31, 2007
C.	Php 200 Million	Php 100 Million	December 31, 2008
D.	Php 250 Million	Php 125 Million	December 31, 2009
E.	Php 350 Million	Php 175 Million	December 31, 2010
F.	Php 500 Million	Php 250 Million	December 31, 2011

II. Any **life or non-life insurance company** existing, operating, or otherwise doing business in the Philippines with *forty percent (40%) or less* foreign equity must possess of capitalization hereunder specified in accordance with the following schedule of compliance:

	Minimum Statutory Net Worth	Minimum Paid-Up Capital	By (Compliance Date)
A.	Php 200 Million	Php 100 Million	December 31, 2006
B.	Php 300 Million	Php 150 Million	December 31, 2007
C.	Php 400 Million	Php 200 Million	December 31, 2008
D.	Php 500 Million	Php 250 Million	December 31, 2009
E.	Php 600 Million	Php 300 Million	December 31, 2010

III. Any **life or non-life insurance company** existing, operating, or otherwise doing business in the Philippines with more than *forty percent (40%) but less than sixty percent (60%)* foreign equity must possess of capitalization hereunder specified in accordance with the following schedule of compliance:

	Minimum Statutory Net Worth	Minimum Paid-Up Capital	By (Compliance Date)
A.	Php 300 Million	Php 150 Million	December 31, 2006
B.	Php 400 Million	Php 200 Million	December 31, 2007
C.	Php 500 Million	Php 250 Million	December 31, 2008
D.	Php 600 Million	Php 300 Million	December 31, 2009
E.	Php 700 Million	Php 350 Million	December 31, 2010

IV. Any **life or non-life insurance company** existing, operating, or otherwise doing business in the Philippines with *at least sixty percent (60%)* foreign equity must possess of capitalization hereunder specified in accordance with the following schedule of compliance:

	Minimum Statutory Net Worth	Minimum Paid-Up Capital	By (Compliance Date)
A.	Php 500 Million	Php 250 Million	December 31, 2006
B.	Php 600 Million	Php 300 Million	December 31, 2007
C.	Php 700 Million	Php 350 Million	December 31, 2008
D.	Php 850 Million	Php 425 Million	December 31, 2009
E.	Php 1.00Billion	Php 500 Million	December 31, 2010

V. Any **reinsurance company** existing, operating, or otherwise doing business in the Philippines must possess of capitalization hereunder specified in accordance with the following schedule of compliance:

	Minimum Statutory Net Worth	Minimum Paid-Up Capital	By (Compliance Date)
A.	Php 750 Million	Php 375 Million	December 31, 2006
B.	Php 1.00 Billion	Php 500 Million	December 31, 2007
C.	Php 1.25 Billion	Php 625 Million	December 31, 2008
D.	Php 1.50 Billion	Php 750 Million	December 31, 2009
E.	Php 2.00 Billion	Php 1.00 Billion	December 31, 2010

VI. The statutory net worth of life, non-life, and reinsurance companies shall include the company's paid-up capital, capital in excess of par value, contingency surplus, retained earnings, and revaluation increments as may be approved by the Insurance Commissioner.

VII. All existing life, non-life, or reinsurance companies must submit a detailed Capital Build-up Program for the Years 2006 to 2010, accompanied by all resolution/s of the board of directors to this effect and attested to by the president, chief executive officer, and chief financial officer, not later than October 31, 2006.

VIII. No life, non-life, or reinsurance company may be rehabilitated and authorized to transact business anew unless in full compliance with, or possessed of the minimum capitalization levels required under, Department Order 1-2006.

IX. The requirements under this Order shall be without prejudice to other requirements to be imposed under the Risk-Based Capital method to be adopted by the Insurance Commission, and the statutory Margin of Solvency requirement under Section 194 of the Insurance Code.

The Insurance Commission may issue such other guidelines as it deems necessary to enforce the provisions of this Order. Non-compliance with this Order and additional guidelines shall result to the revocation of the life, non-life, or reinsurance company's license to do business or certificate of authority.

This supersedes provisions of Department Order Nos. 116-93; 100-94; 49-96; and 31-01 as are inconsistent with the provisions of this Department Order.

This Department Order shall take effect immediately.

Signed on September 1, 2006.

MARGARITO B. TEVES
Secretary
Department of Finance

Recommending approval:

EVANGELINE CRISOSTOMO-ESCOBILLO
Insurance Commissioner

0003978

(PDI–Sept. 21 & 28, 2006)

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

The WORLD

Hungary PM's admission of lying sparks outrage

BUDAPEST—FIFTY-SEVEN PEOPLE WERE INJURED AND AROUND 100 detained as protesters demanding the prime minister's resignation clashed with police in the Hungarian capital for a second night, officials said.

Riot police used tear gas and water cannon to disperse the demonstrators, who hurled bottles and other objects at the officers and set fire to a police car and several garbage cans in the riots near the governing Socialist Party's headquarters.

Mayor Gabor Demszky told public television Wednesday morning that 57 people were injured. Budapest police chief Peter Gergenyi said 24 of the injured were police, four of whom are in serious condition, and that 98 protesters had been detained.

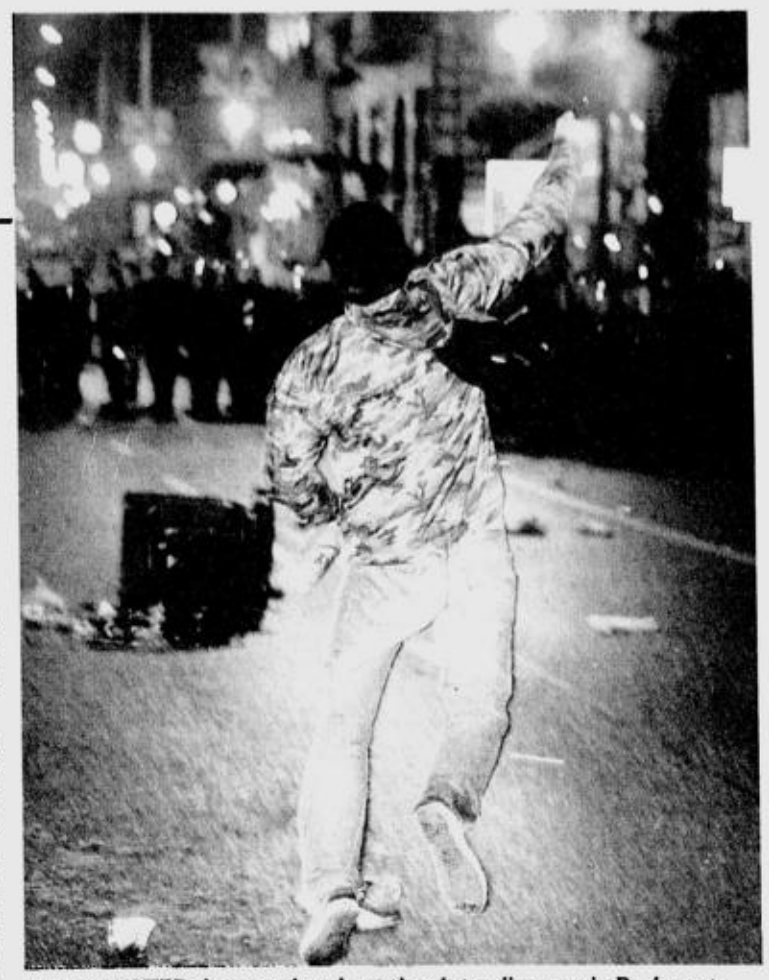
The clashes came after a peaceful demonstration by more than 10,000 people outside parliament Tuesday evening, who called on Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany to quit after the weekend broadcast of a leaked recording in which he admitted that he had lied about the state of the economy in order to win general elections in April.

The speech first sparked violence before dawn on Tuesday, in which some 150 people were injured in riots after protesters stormed and briefly occupied the landmark building of the state television broadcaster, one block from parliament.

Gyurcsany has steadfastly rejected calls to resign, saying he admitted having lied because he wanted to make a fresh start and usher in a new period of honesty necessary to undertake major reforms to rein in a skyrocketing deficit that threatens economic stability.

"The correct decision is to stay," Gyurcsany told state television Tuesday, rejecting opposition calls for him to resign if he loses local elections scheduled in two weeks' time.

Asked if he would bow to the protesters and roll back his economic reforms, he said: "No, these are my policies." *AFP*



A PROTESTER throws a bottle at the riot policemen in Budapest early Wednesday after Hungarian Premier Ferenc Gyurcsany admitted that officials had "lied morning, evening and night" about the real status of economy. AP

Muslim anger at Pope's remarks starts to abate

VATICAN CITY—MUSLIM ANGER AT POPE Benedict XVI's comments linking Islam with violence showed signs of abating Tuesday as Iran's hardline president voiced "respect" for the Pope and Roman Catholic and Muslim leaders met for the first time since the crisis began.

A top Italian Muslim official said he considered the "chapter closed" after talks with Vatican Cardinal Paul Poupard at an interfaith meeting hastily organized by Rome city hall.

"We consider the chapter closed and we believe the way to dialogue has been reopened," said Abdallah Redouane, the moderate head of the Islamic Cultural Center in Italy.

Redouane joined Poupard, Rome's chief rabbi and other religious leaders at the symbolic meeting in an effort to help quell worldwide Muslim anger over the Pope's recent speech in which he raised the issue of Islam and violence.

The meeting, after which the religious leaders shook hands for photographers, followed an apology by Benedict at the weekend.

"At this very difficult time, our presence here is an invitation to authentic dialogue between those who believe in one God," said Poupard, head of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue.

Earlier, the imam of Rome's Grand Mosque said the head of the Roman Catholic Church had "stepped back" with his apology, and this was a "positive signal for the development of dialogue."

His words were in marked contrast to a statement on Monday in which he said the Pope's statement had "set back by years" the progress of inter-religious dialogue.

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad struck a conciliatory tone during a visit to Roman Catholic-majority Venezuela, saying the Pope had "modified" his remarks that had offended Muslims worldwide.

"We respect the Pope and all those interested in peace and justice," Ahmadinejad told a news conference before departing Caracas. "I understand that he has modified the remarks he made." *AFP*

Abe wins vote to be Japan's next premier

TOKYO—OUTSPOKEN CONSERVATIVE SHINzo Abe easily won his party's support Wednesday to replace veteran Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and was set to embark on an agenda that includes rewriting the pacifist constitution.

Abe, a third-generation politician who rose to prominence as a hardliner on North Korea, will be Japan's youngest prime minister and the first born after World War II. He turns 52 on Thursday.

ABE REUTERS

Abe bowed before his mentor Koizumi after the Liberal Democratic Party announced Abe had won the vote to succeed him as party president, a job that automatically leads to the premiership.

"As the first president born after the war, I declare that I will take over the torch of reforms and the torch of idealism," Abe told lawmakers at the party headquarters.

"I will dedicate all my body and soul to build a beautiful country, and a new country, Japan. I sincerely seek your strong support," Abe said.

But Abe will immediately have to deal with hard issues such as tense ties with Tokyo's neighbors and simmering discontent over income disparities amid a recovery in Japan's economy, the second largest in the world.

Abe, whose victory had been predicted for months, secured 464, or two-thirds, of the 703 votes cast by lawmakers and the regional membership of the conservative party, which has ruled Japan almost continuously since 1955.

Foreign Minister Taro Aso, a fellow conservative, came a distant second at 136 votes. Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki, who had cast himself as a dove who could repair sour ties with China, trailed at 102 votes.

The parliament will convene in a special session on Tuesday to name Abe as prime minister to replace Koizumi, who chose to step down despite wide popularity. *AFP*

Israel to fully withdraw from Lebanon by Friday

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL INTENDS to complete a troop withdrawal from Lebanon by the weekend, Defense Minister Amir Peretz said on Wednesday.

"This is our intent, we definitely want to complete it," Peretz said when asked by reporters about comments on Tuesday by army chief Dan Halutz that Israeli forces would quit Lebanon by the Jewish New Year, which starts on Friday.

"We hope there won't be any mishaps in coordinating with the Lebanese army and the international forces, and that everything will go according to the planned timetable," Peretz said in remarks during a tour of southern Israel.

Israeli forces have been gradually pulling out from territory the army captured during the monthlong war with the Hezbollah guerrilla group that ended in a ceasefire on Aug. 14.

"If all goes without a hitch, to the satisfaction of all sides, the working assumption is the IDF (army) will leave all the areas it controls by the Jewish New Year holiday," a parliamentary spokesperson quoted Halutz as telling legislators on Tuesday. "If not, it would be delayed another week."

Israel went to war after Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers and killed eight in a July 12 cross-border raid. Nearly 1,200 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 157 Israelis, two-thirds of them soldiers, were killed in the conflict.

Halutz said meetings involving the Israeli army, the United Nations and Lebanon were taking place to coordinate the pullout. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
PHILSTAR-PRO INTERNATIONAL, INC. 4348 Dayap St., Palanan, Makati City	Minoru Sakuto	Coordinator/ Consultant
PACIFIC YALE ACADEMY PHILS. INC. 3H Westgate Investment Drive, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Soonhwa (w/o Lee) Kim	Administrative Officer
DAEKYO PHILIPPINES NOONNOPPI INC 5046 P. Burgos St., Makati City	Yu Jin Won	General Manager
WATERFRONT CONTAINER LEASING CO., INC. Mercantile Insurance Co., Rm. 300-302 Gen. Luna cor. Beaterio St., Intramuros, Manila	Cason Karsing Tang	Business Analyst
WATERFRONT CONTAINER LEASING CO., INC. Mercantile Insurance Co., Rm. 300-302 Gen. Luna cor. Beaterio St., Intramuros, Manila	John Boon Wee	Owner's Representative
PAN PACIFIC COLLEGE OF ENGLISH INC. 2/F A.M. Flores Bldg., #2 Constellation St. cor. Makati Ave., Bel-Air Village, Makati City	Dongju Jeon	Student Affairs Officer
PAN PACIFIC COLLEGE OF ENGLISH INC. 2/F A.M. Flores Bldg., #2 Constellation St. cor. Makati Ave., Bel-Air Village, Makati City	Shin Chul Jung	President
KOREAN LANGUAGE CULTURE (KLC) TRAINING CENTER, INC. Unit 904 Parc House II Condominium 21 EDSA, Guadalupe Nuevo Makati City	Seyoung Lee	Korean Language Teacher
KOREAN LANGUAGE CULTURE (KLC) TRAINING CENTER, INC. Unit 904 Parc House II Condominium II 21 EDSA, Guadalupe Nuevo Makati City	Jung Hee Park	Korean Language Teacher
KOREAN LANGUAGE CULTURE (KLC) TRAINING CENTER, INC. Unit 904 Parc House II Condominium 21 EDSA, Guadalupe Nuevo Makati City	Donghun Kim	Korean Language Teacher
KOREAN LANGUAGE CULTURE (KLC) TRAINING CENTER, INC. Unit 904 Parc House II Condominium 21 EDSA, Guadalupe Nuevo Makati City	Mi Sook Her (w/o Cho)	Korean Language Teacher
DENCOM CONSULTANCY AND MANPOWER SERVICES Room 3102, Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower Chino Roces Ave., Pio del Pilar, Makati City	Sho Tachibana	Translator/ Website Manager for Japanese Customer
FIRST SOLID RUBBER INDUSTRIES, INC. 3 General Tirona St., Caloocan City	Rongguo Hong	Technician/ Consultant
PEOPLESUPPORT (PHILIPPINES), INC. PeopleSupport Center, Ayala cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Prateek Hastir	Senior Manager– Business Development
K2 TOP CORPORATION Unit 112 CLSI Bldg., Kaunlaran Village, Dagat-dagatan Ave. Caloocan City	Jung Ho Lee	Marketing Manager
TRI-HUB TRANSACTIONS, INC. Unit 2603, 26/F Union Bank Plaza Bldg. Meralco Ave., cor. Onyx, Ortigas Center Pasig City	Aaron Wayne Cree	Vice President – E-Commerce Product Enhancement & Development
TRI-HUB TRANSACTIONS, INC. Unit 2603, 26/F Union Bank Plaza Bldg. Meralco Ave., cor. Onyx, Ortigas Center Pasig City	Jon-Eric Effinger	General Manager
TRI-HUB TRANSACTIONS, INC. Unit 2603, 26/F Union Bank Plaza Bldg. Meralco Ave., cor. Onyx, Ortigas Center Pasig City	Robert Frank Lock	Vice President – Operations
HSBC ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING, (PHILS.), INC. 5150 North Bridgeway, Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Darren Wayne Rowbotham	Centre Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Sept. 21, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
Telephone No. 813-3353 & 221-3114 Telefax No. 813-2141
E-mail Address: buk_provl_bac@yahoo.com.ph

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Project	Project I - Proposed Delivery and Installation of two (2) units Elevator of Bukidnon Provincial Hospital
Location	Casisang, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
Brief Description	Complete Delivery and installation of two Elevator units including its necessary accessories
Contract Reference Number	300-06-0024
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 3,600,000.00
Contract Duration	210.00 Calendar days
Name of Project	Project II-Proposed Delivery and Installation of Air Conditioning and Ventilation units of Bukidnon Provincial Hospital
Location	Casisang, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
Brief Description	Complete delivery and installation of Air conditioning and ventilation
Contract Reference Number	300-06-0025
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 2,705,299.30
Contract Duration	75.00 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 AND ITS implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

1. Advertisement/Posting of IAEB at the Provincial Website, GEPS & conspicuous places	September 15, 2006 - September 28, 2006
2. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 28, 2006 - 9:00 A.M. only
3. Notice of Results for Eligibility Check	September 28, 2006
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 29, 2006
5. Pre Bid	October 3, 2006 2:00 P.M.
6. Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 10, 2006 - 2:00 P.M.

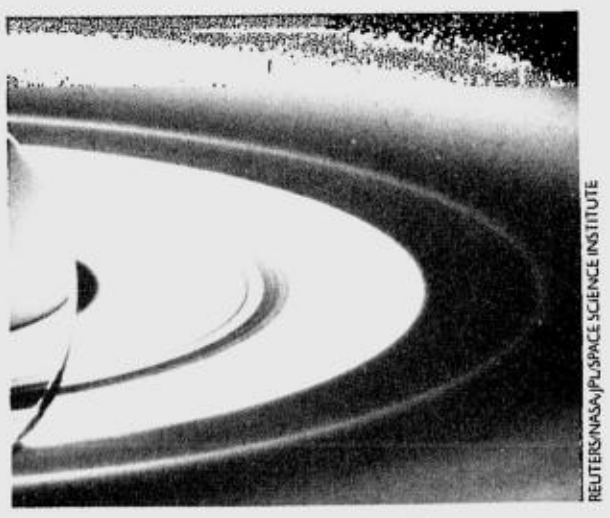
The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of non-refundable amount of P 200.00 Eligibility Form to the Provincial Treasurer Office. Prospective Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Malaybalay City. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by BAC Secretariat at the same address.

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of non refundable Bid documents fee in the amount of two thousand pesos (P2,000.00).

For inquiry, Please call Telephone Nos. 088-813-3353 and 088 221-3114
The Provincial Government of Bukidnon assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES
Provincial Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 17 & 21, 2006)



REUTERS/NASA/JPL/SPACE SCIENCE INSTITUTE

This image taken by Nasa's Cassini spacecraft, shows a new diffuse ring of the planet Saturn, coincident with the orbits of Saturn moon's Janus and Epimetheus.

New ring spotted on Saturn, says Nasa

WASHINGTON—SATURN HAS A newly discovered ring, a faint trail of particles just visible in between some of its better-known rings, Nasa said on Tuesday.

The orbiting Cassini spacecraft caught sight of the ring and other rare features when the sun passed directly behind Saturn in what is known as an occultation, providing bright backlight to the rings.

Cameras aboard Cassini also caught images of wispy fingers of icy material stretching out tens of thousands of kilometers from Enceladus, another confirmation that the moon is spraying material that may be making up Saturn's outer E-ring.

Saturn has at least 47 known moons and at least seven rings. The joint US-European Space Agency Cassini mission, launched in 1997, is spending four years examining Saturn.

The new ring can be barely seen outside the brighter main rings of Saturn and inside the G and E rings. It coincides with the orbits of Saturn's moons Janus and Epimetheus. *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Red Warriors, Tigers duel for title slot today /A24

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

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■ US eyes Woods romp with Furyk at Ryder Cup/A26

Cojuangco doubts credentials of SBP board

COJUANGCO

By Musong R. Castillo

IT WON'T BE EASY AS AN UNMOLESTED dunk when Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) finally seeks recognition from the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the POC president who has batted for only the best players to represent the Philippines internationally, yesterday said that he saw flaws in SBP's newly drafted constitution and bylaws.

"I cannot be partial to anybody here," Cojuangco told the INQUIRER. "But the board members, in newspaper accounts, don't seem to be duly elected officials of the leagues they represent —if they are representing leagues at all."

The former Tarlac representative, who celebrated his 72nd birthday on Tuesday, said he received a copy of SBP's articles of incorporation and had gotten a call from Manny V. Pangilinan, chair of the panel that crafted the SBP constitution.

While admitting that he has yet to read his copy, Cojuangco was quick to point out the discrepancy in the definition of the term "stakeholders" in the basketball body.

"If it is a transitory board because they are [time-] pressured, then I think it is OK," Cojuangco said. "But if it is a permanent board, then a lot of questions need to be asked, foremost of which is, 'Are these officials elected by the organizations they represent?'

"I can't see these (members) to be permanent, because they never conducted elections."

Asked if the POC has the authority to refuse the SBP recognition because of this detail, Cojuangco said, "The POC has all the powers."

The SBP finished drafting the constitution and bylaws at the end of last week and has, in fact, named 24 members to comprise its first board—12 each from the warring Basketball Association of the Philippines and Pilipinas Basketball.

Pangilinan was offered the presidency of the board, but the SMART and PLDT chair politely turned down the offer.

Among the members of the board are BAP president Joey Lina and PB head Bernie Atienza.

Pangilinan, as the 25th member, is obviously the tiebreaker if there is a deadlock on any issue.

Dolphins forge rubber match

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WITH GABBY ESPINAS flashing his old dominating form, Philippine Christian U pulled off a 70-52 shocker over San Beda last night to send the NCAA men's basketball best-of-three championship series to a rubber match tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

The pro-bound Espinas, hardly making a difference in Game 1, unloaded a game-high 22 points as the Dolphins dealt the Red Lions' first defeat in 14 games—and the worst this season— to stay alive for a second crown in three years.

The 6-foot-5 Espinas, the 2004 Rookie-MVP awardee, and the rest of the Dolphins made sure as early as the first half that there wouldn't be a victory party yet for San Beda, which was ready to unfurl streamers and release balloons to celebrate its first title in 28 years.

The Dolphins started like a house on fire, opened up a huge 37-17 lead at halftime and skilfully protected their double-digit edge to the dismay of the large pro-San Beda crowd, who formed a virtual sea of red at the Big Dome.

"Everybody stepped up and there was fire in their eyes," said PCU coach Joel Dualan. "Gabby was able to prove that PCU is an Espinas team."

GABBY Espinas takes a shot off San Beda's Jay-R Taganas in PCU's blowout victory yesterday. RYAN LIM

Deryl Santos, Robby David and Liztian Amparado ably backed up Espinas, who will soon be playing for the San Miguel Beermen in the PBA.

Yousif Aljamal and Pong Escobal fired mostly blanks for San Beda and failed to provide support for the injured Nigerian Sam Ekwe, this year's MVP and Rookie awardee, who still managed 14 points, 16 rebounds, three shots blocks and a steal.

Aljamal and Escobal finished with a combined five points after firing 19 and 14, respectively, in the opener of the title series, which the Lions impressively took at 71-57 last Monday.

Earlier, the San Sebastian Staglets unloaded their full offensive arsenal against the listless PCU Baby Dolphins to retain the juniors crown, 65-41. The Staglets led by as many as 22 points and cruised to their second straight title.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

SAN SEBASTIAN 65—Nasayao 18, Anthony Bringas 15, Del Rio 10, Buenafe 7, Zulueta 6, Sikat 3, Arvie Bringas 2, Penaflor 2, Carlos 2, Soledad 0, Juan 0.

PCU 41—Navaja 11, Lansang 6, Pascual 6, Guevarra 6, Asuncion 5, Anacta 4, Oliveros 2, Importante 1, Degano 0, Faurillo 0, Delaten **0, Miranda 0, Ibrao 0.**

Quarters: 15-9, 35-18, 46-27, 65-41

Second Game (Srs)

PCU 70—Espinas 22, Garrido 10, Santos 9, David 9, Amparado 7, Castro 6, Navarro 6, McCoy 1, Belga 0, Chien 0, Hermosa 0, Vidal 0.

SAN BEDA 52—Gamalinda 18, Ekwe 14, Angeles 6, Magay 4, Escobal 3, Evangelista 3, Aljamal 2, Hermida 2, Menor 0, Tecson 0, Taganas 0, Antonio 0.

Quarters: 21-10, 37-17, 57-38, 70-52

GAME TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—PCU vs San Beda

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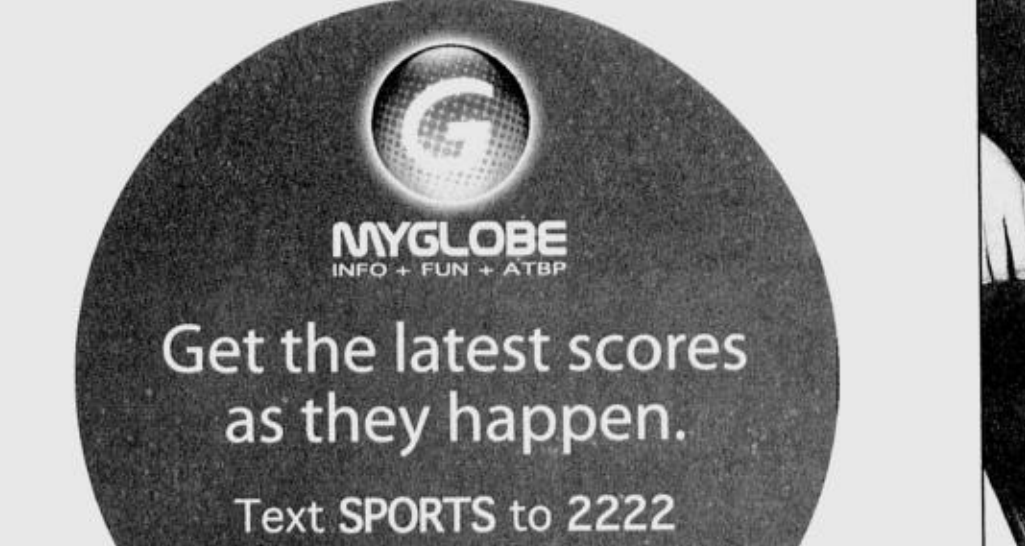

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Flex Fuel Vehicle

Red Warriors, Tigers duel for title slot today

COMPOSURE WILL play a big part when the Santo Tomas Tigers and the University of the East Warriors dispute the remaining UAAP championship berth today.

The Tigers and the Red Warriors, both waging unpredictable campaigns this season, have equal chances in their do-or-die semifinal match at 4 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

The winner will face the Ateneo Blue Eagles in a best-of-three title series starting Sunday.

"The players really want to win, but we must show composure," said UST coach Pido Jarencio.

Frustrating the second-seeded Warriors, the Tigers extended the semifinal series with a 79-75 triumph last Thursday.

"The boys are still motivated, they don't want to blow our twice-to-beat advantage," said UE mentor Dindo Pumaren. "I think there's pressure on both teams, so it just depends on which team handles it better."

The Eagles wrapped up their semifinal assignment with a 76-73 victory over the Adamson Falcons earlier Thursday.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
12 noon—UST vs FEU (Women-Finals)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs FEU (Jrs-Finals)
4 p.m.—UE vs UST (Srs-Final Four)

For Jarencio, unpredictability has worked in the Tigers' favor. "As I've said from the start, anyone in this team can step up," said Jarencio.

Sophomore Mark Canlas, who shot a team-high 16 points against the Warriors, turned out to be the surprise performer for the team that battled injuries and illnesses most of the season.

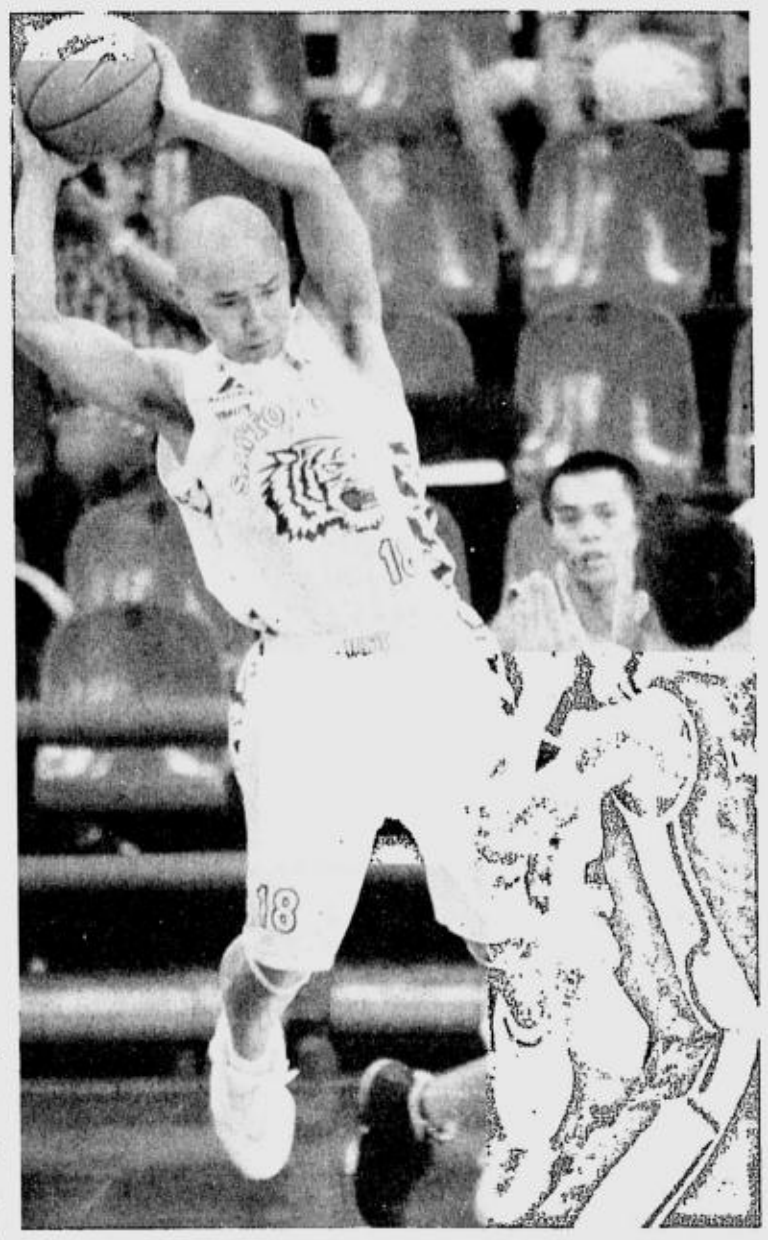
The underrated Tigers will try to become the fifth third-ranked team to overcome the twice-to-beat advantage. In 2002, the Eagles pulled off the semifinal feat against UE and went on to win the championship.

Jarencio expects an all-out war.

"They'll be back, they're a strong team," said Jarencio of the Warriors, the pre-season favorites. "But we're always ready. We go for the win every game. I'm just thankful that everyone in the team is now healthy."

Pumaren acknowledged the Tigers' desire proved the key in Game 1 last Thursday.

"Our advantage is our system, but I reminded the boys that we should also have the will to win," he said. "UST played with a lot of intensity and we have to match that." *Jasmine W. Payo*



JAPS Cuan of UST looks for an open man against Robert Lagabala of UE. The Tigers and the Warriors battle for the last finals berth today. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Tough Tribu five debuts vs Tagaytay Spring today

GAME TODAY (*Talisay City*)

TALISAY CITY, CEBU—COMEBACKING TRIBU Sugbu faces an acid test in its debut today when it meets early leader Tagaytay-Spring Oil in the Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup at the city gym here.

Odds are even in the 8 p.m. match where Tagaytay-Spring hopes to win for the third consecutive time.

The Cebuanos, the first NBC champions who have returned after a one-conference leave, are raring to kick off their bid for a second title.

"The boys are hungry for action," said Al Solis, coach of the squad backed by Arthro and Skygo. "This game will be an early test for us."

Solis is counting on old reliables Marvin Mercado, Doroteo Almacin, Alex Cainglet and Ronald Bucao to spearhead Tribu's campaign in the tournament supported by Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring, Molten, Holiday Plaza Hotel-Cebu and Prime Channel.

The Tagaytay-Spring squad of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and NBC executive vice president and Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino, which beat Valencia and defending champion Ozamiz Cotta in its first two outings, leans on PBL veteran Nani Epondulan, Gilbert Neo, Rodel Mallari, Danny Capobres, Aldrin Morante and Mar Reyes.

'We'll make the weight, then celebrate'

By Francis Ochoa

THE TABLES HAVE BEEN TURNED.

This time, it is Erik Morales who feels he's being disrespected. And it is the Mexican ring icon who feels he has something to prove when he fights Filipino boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao for the third time on Nov. 18 at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas.

"I call you to give me an opportunity," Morales, also known as El Terrible, told reporters in yesterday's press conference for the fight. "Today, I will tell you to believe in me. This is the first time that I am going to be training in great shape."

Morales' next words might have very well been addressed to Team Pacquiao.

"They are saying that they're going to knock me out and that they are going to retire me," Morales said. "I will say to them in their face that the only thing I need to worry about is to come in great condition and make (the) weight. Then we will celebrate on Nov. 18."

Pacquiao was described by website writers who attended the event as calm and relaxed.

"I know he's in great shape right now," the Pacman was quoted as saying by FightNews.com. "I know he will make (the) weight on Nov. 18 and I know he will be 100 percent in condition. It's going to be a great fight."

The two super featherweight superstars met at the Beverly Hills Hotel for the press conference for their third fight.

Pacquiao (42-3-2, 33 KOs) and Morales (48-4, 34 KOs) split their two assignments, making their next bout, dubbed "The Grand Finale," a potential blockbuster.

"This will be a big fight for everyone," said Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's American trainer. "I know Morales wants revenge and Manny has his whole country behind him."

Morales has been very hard at work to make the weight. A contract stipulation requires him to pay $500,000 for every pound he is overweight.

Tickets have reportedly been selling like hotcakes and promoter Bob Arum expects 16,000 to watch the bout.

MORALES: Believe in me.

Abarrientos now a King; Cabagnot returns to SLR

PBA unveils new ticket scheme

BARANGAY GINEBRA formally inserted Johnny Abarrientos into the Kings' lineup, and a repentant Alex Cabagnot is now part of the Sta. Lucia roster for the coming Philippine Basketball Association season.

CABAGNOT

As this developed, commissioner Noli Eala announced the introduction of a new ticket system that will allow fans to, among others, visit teams in their locker rooms as an initial step to increase attendance during games.

Abarrientos was part of the 12-man roster submitted by new Kings coach Jong Uichico, who struck off forward Alan Salansang in favor of the one-time Most Valuable Player.

An offseason deal allowed the Kings to net Rafi Reavis, Billy Mamaril and Rudy Hatfield from Coca-Cola to boost an already imposing frontcourt combo of Erik Menk, Andy Seigle, Mike Holper and Rommel Adducul.

The Realtors, on the other hand, left several players unsigned after last season and took in Cabagnot, who inked a fresh contract with a team he had abandoned twice only to get back in.

Details of the new agreement were not available but it puts Cabagnot on a very tight leash. The University of Hilo-Hawaii product faces severe penalties should he make yet another disappearing act.

"As of now, he's on a one conference-probation," said SLR governor Buddy Encarnado.

Among the still unsigned Realtors were Chito Victolero, Jimwell Torion, Mac Cuan, Chester Tolomia and Oliver Agapito.

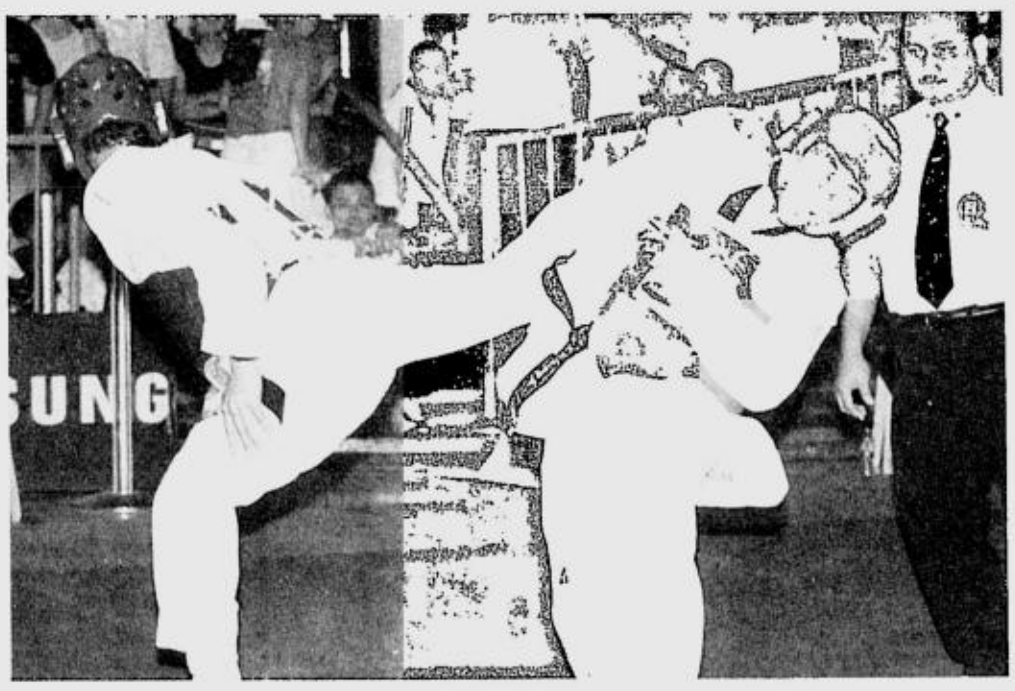
Meanwhile, fans can now watch all the games of their favorite team at the Araneta Coliseum with a single ticket. Using the All-Team Access Pass plan, fans can also avail themselves of freebies and get a tour of locker rooms during game days.

The passes are priced at P6,300, P5,500 and P1,200.

"The board, under chair Ricky Vargas, really wants fans to have limitless options on the purchase of tickets," said Eala.

The league is also expanding its base of ticket outlets, which now include all San Mig Foods branches. Upper Box A ticket prices will also be cut by as much as 30 percent.

For ticket inquiries, call 638-1815. *Francis Ochoa*



SAN BEDA'S Loreto Velasquez reels from a turning-side kick from CAR's Mark Rico during their featherweight bout in Glorietta. Velasquez won, 1-0. RUDY ESPERAS

Aranzanso, Marcial advance in Best of Best nat'l meet

NATIONAL TEAM MAINSTAY GERRIELYN Aranzanso and Central Gym's Rachel Marcial shut out their respective rivals to advance to the semifinals of the senior women's division of the Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati yesterday.

Aranzanso, playing out of De La Salle, overwhelmed Sharmaine Laurilla in their two-round clash via a 7-0 rout, while Marcial fashioned out a 4-0 victory over Nancy Remollena to arrange a semis showdown with Jessica Ballesteros of UE. Ballesteros beat Precious Malit, 3-1.

Yvette Billote of CAR and Caryn Pilongo of UST were disputing the last semis berth at presstime.

Earlier, Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aventajado, PTA vice president Song Chon Hong, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Charles Choi, vice president for information communication technology of Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp., and Jerry Lacson, Samsung general manager for marketing, graced the opening of the five-day event.

SEA Games gold medalists Japoy Lizardo and Aranzanso delivered the oath of sportsmanship.

Jareth Mojica of FEU, Aaron Binarao of Tuguegarao and Dexter Cabbadilla of San Beda also disposed of their respective rivals to gain berths in the quarterfinal round in the men's seniors (flyweight).

Mojica rapped Arnold Oglayon of CAR, 2-0; Binarao defeated Noel Nicolas of Cotabato, 2-0; and Cabbadilla trounced Arturo Walican of Army-Davao to advance.

Carlos Padilla, of the NTU Tigers, defeated Pampanga's Rene Bayonito, 5-3.

Milo 21K elims goes to Tarlac Sunday

THE 30TH NATIONAL MILO MARAthon goes to Tarlac City this Sunday with organizers expecting another huge field of more than 10,000 runners.

While the centerpiece event of the nationwide foot race is the 21K, where the top three finishers earn berths to the national finals, most of the runners this weekend will join the 5K fun run in line with Milo's "Get into Sports" theme.

High school and college students form the bulk of the 5K runners to help their respective schools win the inter-school running competition and the biggest delegation contest.

Another feature of the elimination run, held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar, is the cheer-dance competition.

Bowen Montecillo and Ma. Elena Torcelino topped their respective 21K divisions last year, but project chair Arnold Rodriguez predict an exciting race with some noted Metro Manila runners joining Sunday's race that stakes P150,000.

Tarlac City Mayor Aro Mendoza has been invited to fire the starting gun at 6 a.m. in front of the Tarlac City Hall.

Milo Sports Events executive Pat Gocong urged all runners should be at the starting area at least one hour before the start for the pre-race briefing.

SPORTSWATCH

Truck and car show slated

THE 2006 SPORT TRUCK & CUSTOM CAR Show comes off the wraps on Sept. 27 and will continue up to Oct. 1 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. The show has become a mecca for sport truck and motor racing enthusiasts. Visitors will get a glimpse of several monster 4x4 sport trucks used for competition in the off-road 4x4 racing series, open wheel racers, touring sedans, drag strip racers, customized cars, SUVs, pick-ups and vans. The show's organizer and top supporter, TradeShow International Inc. (TSI), said this year's show promises to be even bigger with corporate exhibitors unveiling the latest products, such as engine racing parts, turbo and nitrous injection kits, suspension modifications and upgrades and aero and racing body kits.

Bank rewards top cagers

PSBANK IS AGAIN HANDING OUT "MAAASAhang Player of the Game" awards to best players after each game of the 69th University Athletics Association of the Philippines basketball tournament. As one of the major sponsors of the UAAP games, PSBank will reward the player who contributed most to his team's victory with a P2,000 cash deposit certificate which they can use to open a deposit account at any of PSBank's 150 branches. At season's end, the PSBank "Maaasahan Player of the Season" gets a P25,000 passbook account and a trip for two to Hong Kong.

60 tiffs at Las Piñas today

LAST PIÑAS COLISEUM'S "FASTEST WIN ONE-Cock Ulutan" gets underway at 10 a.m. today with more than 60 fights on tap. The fastest win champion will be selected after every five fights and will get P5,000, said hosts Baldo Perez and Micky Itchon. Each winner will also get a bonus of P1,000. For inquiries, call 873-1040 or 874-3910. The venue's much-awaited special 4-stag derby finally unwraps on Saturday with no less than 35 cockers and breeders expected to compete, said hosts Alex Tobias and Rudy Sayaman. Screening of stags, as well as submission of weights, will be held on derby day. Stags previously banded for the Las Piñas Annual 6-Stag Derby will be accepted, said Tobias.

SJC Fastest Win Friday

OVER 100 PARTICIPANTS ARE TAKING PART IN the "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" which resumes tomorrow at the San Juan Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Hosts Ronnie Lacsina and Renato Shio said the fastest win champion will get P40,000; second, P20,000; third to fifth, P5,000; sixth to 10th, P3,000; 11th to 15th, P2,000. Registration fee is only P1,100. Lacsina said the "Fastest Win" event will be staged every Friday. Meanwhile, six participants topped the opening leg of SJC Circuit 5-stag derby series last Monday. They are Emil Chua (Concrete Breaker), Totoy Haruta (Rainier), Boy Tuazon (AUT Gamefarm), Mayor Wawao Ramos (Greenland Bataan), Mayor Perez (Don Salvador) and the LB Candelaria entry. For other inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-6563.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Silver Anna (4), Ray Moon Star (3), Mine of Gold (6), Masiado (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Real Tough (3), Money Man (6), Sweet Talk (7), Lydia's Magic (2)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Kalmia (7), Cognac Monnet (3), Qui Paris (1), Summer Gear (5)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Don Ramon (6), Shining Lance (2), Nitty Girtty (9), Head Turner (1), Amaretta (7)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Jayvie's Godfather (1), Miss Bobon (6), Eral's Game/Worth Ur While (2), Unleashed (5)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Top Of D'Line (2), Red Diamond (6), Makati Haven (7), Refreshing (3)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Angel of Light (4), District Three (5), Sand Peebles (8), Lirao (10), Big Spender/Shadow Groove (7)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Rivendel (14), U Are My Sunshine (7), Triple Treat (13), Iron Tower (8), Easy Rider (2), Hard to Find (1)

Bondoc five shots off in Taiwan golf

GENE BONDOC CARDED A ONE-OVER-PAR 73 to trail Chen Zhi-chiang of Taiwan by five strokes as Filipino golfers struggled at the start of the Acer International Amateur tournament at the Sunrise Golf Club in Taiwan yesterday.

Bondoc, a veteran internationalist and spearhead of a six-man RP delegation in the four-day event, fought back from a two-over card at the frontside with a birdie on No. 10 but settled for a slew of pars the rest of the way for a 38-35 card.

Miko Alejandro blew an even-par round after nine holes, tripping on three bogeys coming in to finish with a 75, even as Gene Bunyi failed to recover from a bad start and wound up with a 79.

Chen sizzled with a four-under-par 68 to pace the men's field by one shot over compatriot Chien Yao-hung in the tournament that drew 100 players from 17 countries.

Mia Piccio, winner of the Jags crown in the US recently, groped for form as she stumbled with a six-over 78, nine strokes behind So Yeon-ryu, who led the Koreans' charge with a 69. She stood a stroke up on Yu Pei-lin of Taiwan.

Lora Roberto also wilted in the face of the opposition's solid start, shooting an eight-over 80 while Crystal Superal carded an 81.

The RP team's stint in Taiwan is sponsored by International Container Terminal Services Inc.

RP batters keep title

THE PHILIPPINES BLANKED SINGAPORE, 19-0, in their title duel to sweep the recent 3rd BASE-Asia Championship in Selangor, Malaysia.

Earlier, the Filipinos routed the Malaysians, 23-1, and drubbed the Singaporeans, 23-3, to claim their third straight crown. Singapore gained another crack at the Philippines by blasting Malaysia, 17-4, at the conclusion of the single round-robin elimination format.

SY HOPES TO SURGE: The Philippines' Tyson Sy (left), lead driver of Speedtech Asia, swings his rebuilt Dallara car wide on a corner of the Sentul International Circuit in Indonesia during Wednesday's time trials. Sy, who is running third in the race for the overall title, submitted the seventh fastest time. Closely trailing Sy in the picture are Britain's James Winlow and Ireland's John O'Hara.

Peña a whisker off pace

BOGOR, INDONESIA—PUTTING HIS MISFORTUNES in China behind, Filipino star Dado Peña clocked the second fastest time in practice Wednesday and looked ready to strike hard in rounds 10 to 15 of the Asian Formula Three series at the Sentul International Circuit here.

"Everything's fine," said the 19-year-old Peña of Team Goddard who clocked 1:26.912. "The engine is good, the set-up of the car is close to perfect. Now, all we need is to pull off it off in the actual race."

Briton James Winslow of JA Motorsport posted the fastest time in ideal conditions, just a tenth of a second faster than Peña, while another Pinoy star, Tyson Sy, 18, of Speedtech Asia, struggled in the same Dallara car that he wrecked in a crash in China last June.

Sy was seventh fastest in 1:28.252, just a whisker ahead of last year's Promotions class champion Moreno Soeprapto of Indonesia. Finnish driver Henri Karjalainen of Team Goddard, making his series debut, clocked 1:27.417, while series leader Ali Jackson of Ireland's Aran Racing clocked 1:27.552.

Another debuting driver, Indon Rama Danindro, in a Shell Helix Kinetic car, clocked 1:27.804, followed by Satrio Hermanto of R&W Team Indonesia (1:28.232).

"We are point-eighth of a second behind when we are actually looking to be two seconds faster than the rest," rued Sy, who is running third in the series with 105 points, 22 behind Jackson and just two behind Winslow.

Two more practice sessions will be held Wednesday afternoon, giving Sy's pit crew more time to fine-tune his racing machine. If his car doesn't improve, Sy said he would be more than willing to play back-up and help Peña clinch a podium finish.

Two races will be held Thursday just after the race for pole position, with the next four spread out over the next two days.

Briton Dillon Battistini of JA Motorsport clocked 1:28.562 in practice, followed by Bagoes Hermanto of R&W Indonesia (1:28.727), lady driver Gaby de la Merced of Speedtech Asia (1:28.845), John O'Hara of Aran Racing (1:29.242) and former Asian karting queen Michele Bumgarner of Team Goddard (1:29.688).

8 pairs gain Rush Smashfest finals

JEREMY MANAGO AND ANN MENDIOLA HURDLED ARCHIE LLAVADO AND KIT INOCENTES, 21-14, 21-19, at the Battledor Club in Roxas district, Quezon City, to lead seven other tandems into the finals of the Rush Interclub Smashfest 2006 during the weekend. Advancing with Manago-Mendiola in the first elimination leg were Pee Wee Elegir-Noreen Blanco, who subdued Dan Astillero- Marife Durana, 21-16, 22-20, at the Centro Atletico in Cubao, and Boboy Reyes- Jojo Reyes, who trounced Marc Anthony Niez-January Maturan, 15-21, 21-ret, at the Star Smash in Timog. James Tai-Joy Tan edged Ronnie Arcenas-Natalie Sy, 21-12, 17-12, 21-19, at the ACE Badminton in San Francisco del Monte to complete the qualifiers among Quezon City-based teams in the tournament sponsored by Rush Fitness Water. The second leg of eliminations for Pasig-based teams was held Sunday with Master Edison Yabut and Eloi Espinosa trouncing Tac Milla-Kang Garovillas, 21-14, 21-16, at the Marikina Sports Hub. The other finalists were Mark Mayo-Violy Alipio, who clobbered Dominador Lorenzo-Janice Liwag, 21-7, 21-10, at Don Antonio SC, and JV Madrid- Wowie Agustin, who nipped Alex Bartolay-Wilma Francisco, 19-21, 21-14, 21-17, at the Olympic Badminton Court in Green Meadows. Mark August Tan-Maricris de Jesus bested Luis Manila-Hazel Melanie Ramos, 21-14, 15-21, 21-15, at Greenpark to complete the second set of qualifiers for the finals slated Sept. 30 at the Olympic Badminton Club in San Juan. Action resumes on Sept. 23 and 24 featuring clubs in Manila and Makati.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Thursday, September 21, 2006

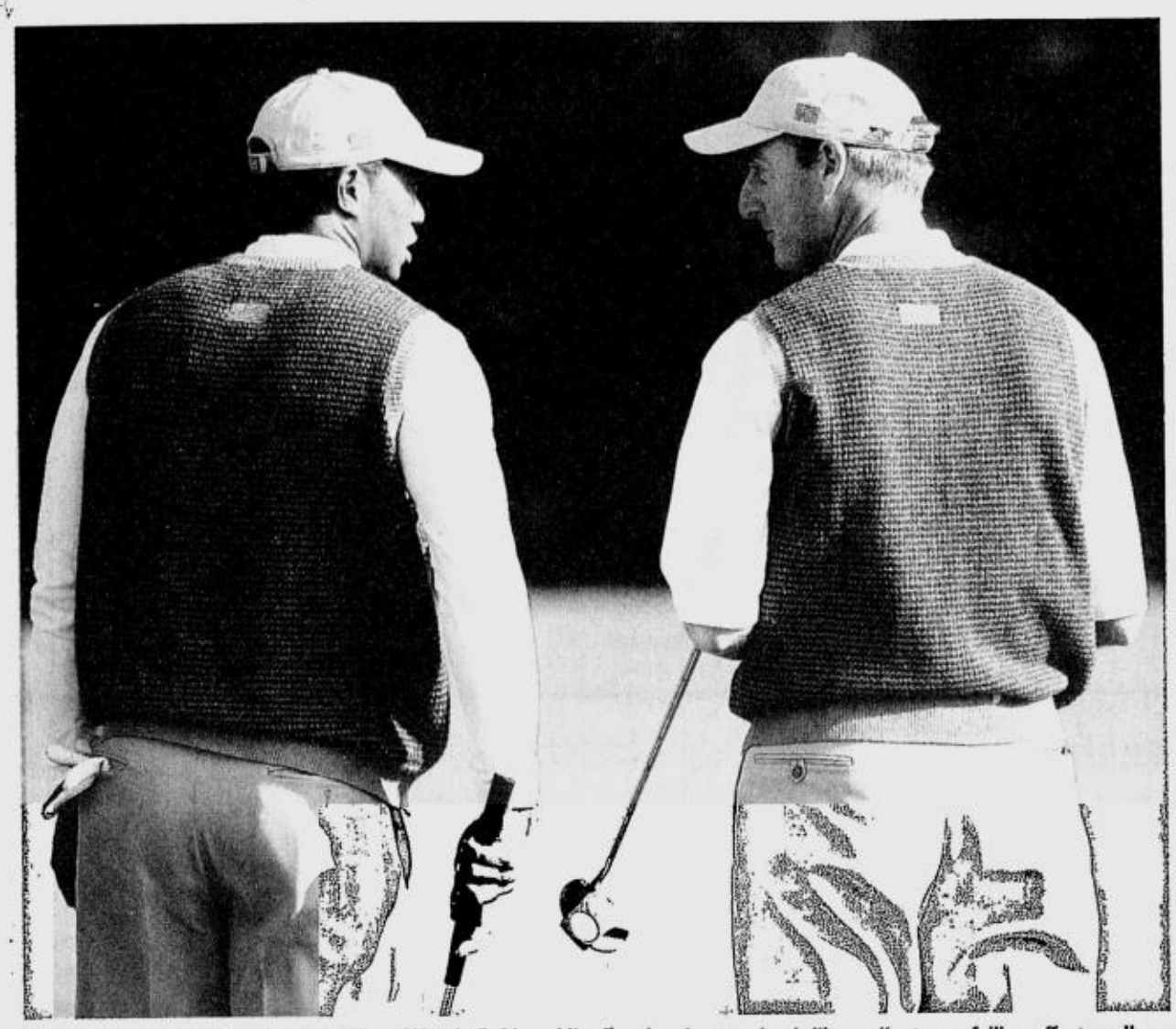
Philippine Idol
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol	S.O.S		Shorts		Big News	Worst Case Scenario	Philippine Idol (11:45PM)
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Crazy For You		Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	SOCO	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Samsung Sports World	The Amazing Race (Season IX)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Fear Factor (Season VI)		The Contender (Season II)		Supernatural (Season I)		Lost (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel	Robotboy	Mirumo De Pon	Pokemon: Johto Journey	Dio/ Justisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Galawgaw				Ang Lahat Ng Ito Pati Na Ang Langit				Salome				Ella Enchanted				Anak	
Cinemax			Manila (3:40PM)					Batman (5:55PM)				A Nightmare On Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors			Far And Away (9:35PM)				
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	Inside The Middle East/CNN Business Traveller/ Global Office/ Global Challenges	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Psychic Detectives	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Bones		Treasure Hunters		E-Ring	
Discovery Channel		Psychic Witness		Kings Of Construction		Raw Nature		Deadliest Catch		Engineering Series		Building The Ultimate	Connect	Mythbusters		Innovation On The Fast Track		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Monster Allergy	Lizzie Mcguire	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		English Premier League Highlights		Manchester United Premier Cup Highlights		X Games 11 Classic - Slammed/ Stomped		Watersports Programming Hot Wave		Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		Sportscenter Asia	Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		American Dreams		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace 4	Friends 10	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Nanny 911		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Virtue Storybook	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	The Catholic Church Through The Ages	Special Programming		EWTN Live Encore With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Seven Sacraments	Images of Mary	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10PM)		Majika		Bakekang (8:50PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B.Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Family Law		Spooks		Wire In The Blood		Regenesis	
HBO			Radio (3:45PM)				Made In Heaven (5:45PM)				Problem Child 2			Monster-In-Law			Mad City (10:40PM)		
Hero TV	Angelic Layer	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	AmDriver	Angelic Layer	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arms		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arms	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Smackdown				X-Men	The Batman	Experience		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Just For Laughs	Distraction	Banzai	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Good Finds	Martha		Your Private Island	Genuine Article	E! True Hollywood Story	
MTV Philippines		Punk'd	Laguna Beach	Handpicked The Dawn	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	Ultrasound The Dawn	TRL		Punk'd	Laguna Beach	Rex in the City	Sessions The Dawn	VH1 All Access: Awesome Make-out Moments	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Monkey Business	National Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Naked Science: Lightning		Top 5 - Beauty?		WOW! Bug Attack Aggression		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Megastructures: Megabridge - China		Naked Science: Killer Asteroids	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alap.			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubuyog		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Neber 2 Geder				Kapalaran Si Kamandyan Moms				Abandonada				Juan Tamad Junior				Babae Sa Breakwater
Qtv	Always The Two Of Us	Shaman King	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)				Phoenix	Irene		Sorry I Love You		Family Zoo		News On Q	Women's Desk		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapead Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savings	Jake In Progress	The 4400		Medium		Cold Case		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Friends Again		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports						WNCAA		2006 Thomas Cup Quarterfinals		NFL Football: Tampa Bay @ Atlanta						Solar Sports Desk	Baron Davis: The Game	Beach Volleyball: FIVB Women's Austria	
Sports Plus			Inside the PGA	Raceworld		Borgata Poker Open				Nopi Tunervision	Golf Today	World's Greatest Auto Show Tokyo		World Game		Auto Focus		Raceworld	
Star Movies	Dark Harvest			Five Children And It			Hunt For Justice (5:40PM)			Desperado (7:15PM)				Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou				The Triangle - Ep 03	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Rockstar: Supernova				The Drew Carey Show	Sons & Daughters	Seinfeld	Rockstar: Supernova
Studio 23								Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	Two & A Half Men	Joey	Stacked	Grey's Anatomy		News Central	Dyesebel (10:45PM)		MYXlog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

SPORTS

US eyes Woods romp with Furyk



THE US' hopes lie on the backs of Tiger Woods (left) and Jim Furyk, whose swing is like an "octupus falling off a tree." AFP

STRAFFAN, IRELAND—ON PAPER AND IN PERSON, THEY look nothing alike.

Tiger Woods is sheer power, from his 12 major championships and 63 titles worldwide to his acclaim as the richest athlete and one of the most recognizable faces in the world.

Jim Furyk is a US Open champion who grinds at his golf and is recognized only by his swing, which is not always a compliment. One analyst once described it as an octopus falling out of a tree.

Woods' reputation is the long ball.

Furyk is so accurate he can aim at stripes left by a lawn mower.

But they almost certainly will be partners in this Ryder Cup, a combination that makes sense only to them.

"We have some similarities, we have some differences and we get along pretty well," Furyk said Tuesday. "We partnered well at the Presidents Cup. There's no promises, obviously, but hopefully that continues."

Woods and Furyk were together on The K Club during the first practice session leading to the start of Friday's matches, which was no surprise. US captain Tom Lehman saw how they played at the Presidents Cup in October—a 2-1-0 record in team play—and listened to their requests that they be partners again.

Their success is crucial to an American team that has lost four of the last five times in the Ryder Cup.

For all his greatness in the majors, Woods has been nothing more than ordinary in the Ryder Cup. Even more surprising than his 7-2-11 record is that he rarely contributes anything on the opening day, which sets the tone for these matches.

Woods is 1-7 on Friday at the Ryder Cup, riding an ugly streak of seven straight losses.

Furyk isn't much better.

He has shown his grit in singles by going unbeaten in four Ryder Cups, usually against Europe's strongest players, whether it's Nick Faldo or Sergio Garcia. But he is 1-1-9 in team matches.

"You want your best player to go out there and play well the first day and make a statement," Furyk said.

That was hardly the case last time.

US captain Hal Sutton made his own statement by teaming Woods with Phil Mickelson, creating unity that ranks right up there with oil and water. They rarely spoke and lost both their matches as Europe went on to its largest victory ever.

Woods usually gets his way, but the world's No. 1 player had to wait a couple of years to get this request.

He was in the locker room at Firestone in 2003 going over a long list of partners in the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup that was about to grow even more.

"Who know who I'd really love to play with? Jim Furyk," Woods said that day. "You can't believe how tough this guy is."

He didn't get him at the '03 Presidents Cup and '04 Ryder Cup, and almost didn't get him last year in the Presidents Cup. US captain Jack Nicklaus considered putting Woods and Mickelson together again for the good of the event.

Instead, Woods got his man.

Furyk was injured that week with a pulled muscle in his ribs, the pain so severe that he had to lie on his stomach with his shirt off while therapists worked on him. Woods also was injured, getting his back iced between shots, yet they pulled out a 3-and-2 victory. *AP*

Top Filipino bets fighting in World Muay Thai card

SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S FINEST FIGHTERS get to show their wares when they vie in the undercard of the World Muay Thai Council title fights slated Sept. 30 at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The local bets from the Muay Association of the Philippines will go up against foreign fighters to be brought in by former world muay thai champion Dr. Geoffrey Van Es, who heads Galaxis Inc., promoter of the GAB-licensed card.

The event is presented by Smart and also sponsored by PLDT My DSL, Mitsubishi, Nokia, Powerade, Nissan, Mizuno, PAL, LandBank, San Miguel Corp., Energizer, Alivio, Quizgem, Sea Airline and media partners Manila Bulletin, Manila Standard-Today, Sports Digest, Solar Sports and ABS-CBN Metro Active.

Leading the RP charge is SEA Games muay thai gold medalist Roland Claro, 27, who also won in the 2005 World Muay Thai Championships.

Zaidi Laruan, 18, and Brent Velasco, 26, both SEA Games silver medalists from Benguet, add muscle to the local lineup.

Laruan also won a bronze medal in the 3rd World Muay Championships earlier this year while Velasco won gold and silver medals in several IFMA and WMF world championships.

Completing the local cast are Ruben Samido, Darmando Daligdig and Reynaldo Trasmonte.

The 23-year-old Sumido won in three WMC and three local tournaments last year, while Daligdig, 26, is a WMC bronze medalist and has a gold and a bronze in a couple of pre-Asian indoor games tournaments last year. Trasmonte, 28, picked up a bronze in last year's SEA Games.

PBL accepting draft applicants

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL League, hoping to discover fresh talents after the exodus of its amateur stars, is now entertaining rookie applicants for its 2006 season-opening tournament.

Deadline for submission is on Oct. 10 at the PBL office at the Tektite Tower in Ortigas, Pasig. The league will also conduct a rookie camp two days before the Oct. 13 draft.

"There are a lot of raw talents in the country so I'm confident we can find future stars not only for the league but for the country," said PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad.

Crossing over to the pro league after productive stints in the PBL were LA Tenorio and Joseph Yeo of 2006 Unity Cup champion Harbour Centre, Arwind Santos and Kelly Williams of Magnolia Ice Cream and a slew of veterans from powerhouse Welcoat Paints.

INTAL

Several UAAP standouts including point guard Jonas Villanueva of Far Eastern University and the slam-dunking JC Intal of Ateneo are among the top prospects in the rookie draft.

Trinidad, however, strongly encouraged players from the Visayas and Mindanao to join the draft.

The PBL season-opener, billed as the Silver Cup, will kick off in November.

One of the teams badly needing fresh recruits is Harbour Centre, which is now seeking out replacements for LA Tenorio and Joseph Yeo, who have both climbed to the pros. The Port Masters are reportedly eyeing Intal.

"We are badly in need of exciting but dependable players in the mold of Yeo and Tenorio," said Harbour Centre manager Erick Arejola. "With so many promising players from various leagues in the country, I'm confident we can find good players.

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Website: www.inq7money.net
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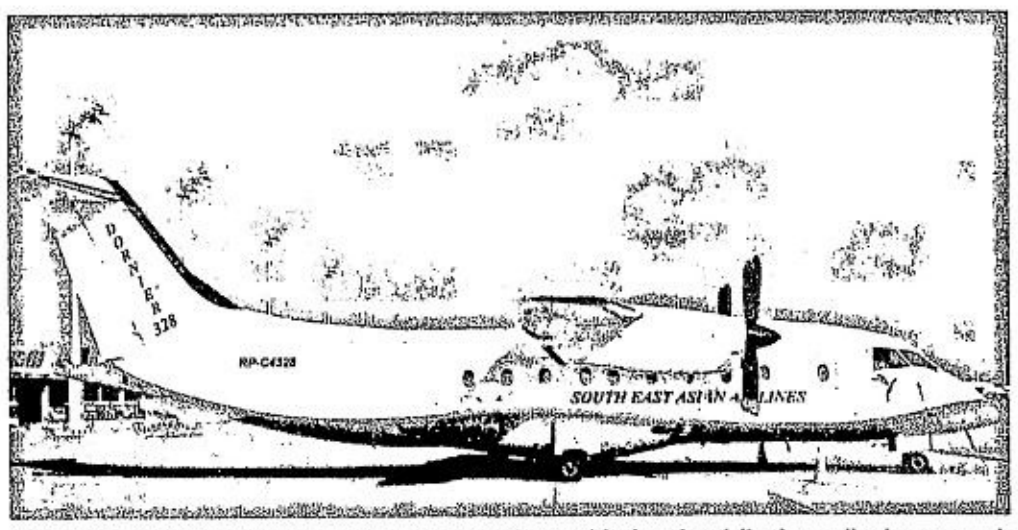
Thai coup jolts RP, Asian financial markets



ONLINE booking is a "force multiplier" for Seair, considering the airline's small sales network and limited advertising budget.

Online booking takes hold in RP aviation

By Daxim L. Lucas

(First of two parts)

EVEN AS MUCH LARGER COMPETITORS reel from high fuel costs, the bosses at South East Asian Airlines or Seair are not worried.

In fact, Seair director and co-founder Nikos Gitsis explained that the airline, which focuses on a niche for tourists to local resort destinations, is ready to leverage its small size to keep a lid on operating expenses.

TRENDS

Last June, Seair launched its online booking system, which aims to broaden its market reach without having to embark on a costly expansion of its physical branch network.

"We expect to reach P2 million worth of online bookings this month," Gitsis said in an interview. His optimism is fueled by the fact that Seair recorded P1 million in sales through the locally developed online booking system in its first three weeks of operations alone.

Called the airline reservation and tracking system (ARTS), the service allows clients to book Seair flights to Busuanga and El Nido in Palawan and to Caticlan, which serves as the jump-off point to world-famous Boracay Island.

Gitsis said the system allowed the airline, which has a fleet of only 13 turboprop aircraft, to reach out to potential clients worldwide.

"Only 21 percent of our online ticket sales come from the Philippines," he said. The rest come from clients who book online from the United States, Europe and around Asia.

Online booking is a "force multiplier" for Seair, considering the airline's small sales network and limited advertising budget.

"Often, it is hard for [the clients] to buy

ONLINE/ B2

Just a knee-jerk reaction, analysts say

By Doris C. Dumlao and Michelle V. Remo

SINGAPORE—ASIAN FINANCIAL MARKETS were jolted yesterday by the military coup in Thailand but the early losses were limited and will likely stay that way unless the takeover sparks a violent response.

The peso retreated off four-year highs to hit an intra-day low of 50.35 before closing at 50.185 against the dollar yesterday against Tuesday's close of 50.12:$1. Stocks were likewise down nearly 2 percent as investors found an excuse to take profit. *(See story on this page.)*

Before the Thai political crisis, the peso was nearing the next key barrier at 50:$1 and was even expected by some currency dealers to break out into the 49:$1 level any time soon.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who was attending the International Monetary Fund-World Bank meetings here, said: "I'm hoping that this is only a temporary aberration. Thailand had quite a number of coups and they've quickly responded to political concerns."

"Thailand has very sound macroeconomic fundamentals. Certainly, I think Thailand will rebound and it will not adversely affect the situation in Asia," Teves said.

Dealers said stocks and the Thai baht took an early blow in a knee-jerk reaction after Thailand's embattled Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted by the military.

However, the downturn was limited on the view the coup could actually end months of political uncertainty, which began earlier this year when Thaksin's family sold Thai telecoms giant Shin Corp. for a tax-free $1.9 billion.

The coup was led by Gen. Son-

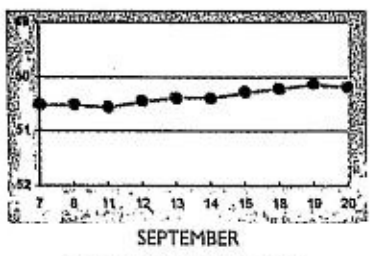
THAI/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

Breaktime
School broke /B2
Gov't gets P6.6B in dividends from state firms /B8

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

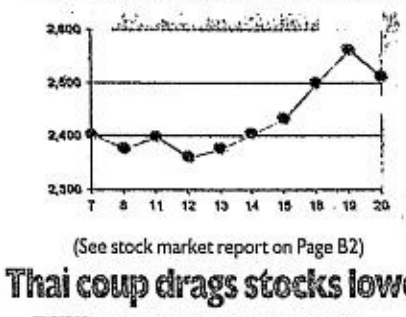


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.185 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 20, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

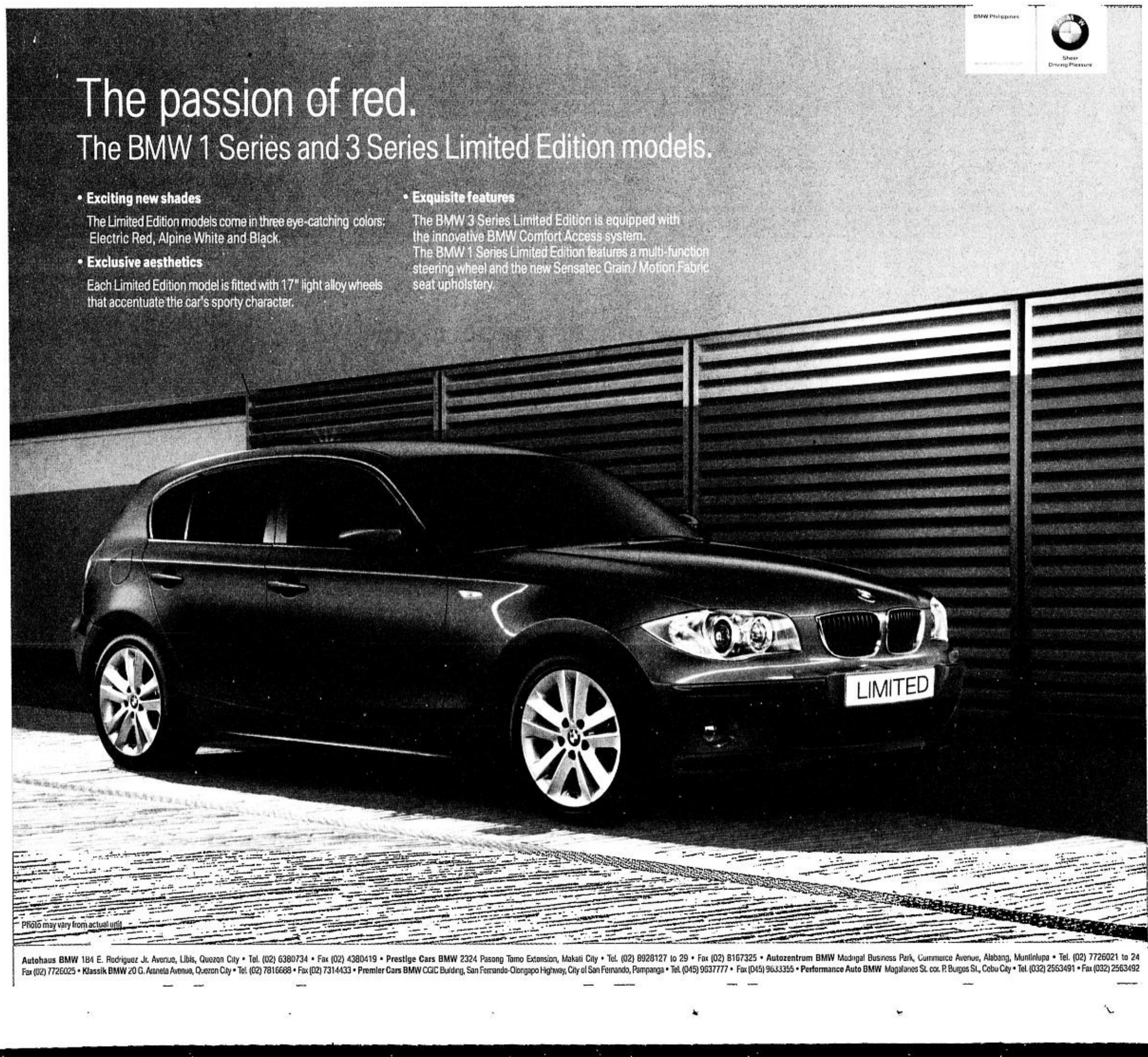
Thai coup drags stocks lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.99-percent lower yesterday as investors were jolted by news of a Thai military coup against Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, dealers said.

They said the local market was the worst affected by the news in the region given the country's own history of military coups and threats against the current administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

However, stocks were off their lows and this would suggest the impact will be limited, especially since the key 2,500 points level held after recent sustained gains.

The composite index lost 50.9 points to 2,512.76 points after moving between 2,500.75 and 2,550.78. *AFP*



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School broke

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, or DepEd, got the biggest slice of this year's national budget at P112 billion.

That's about 11 percent of the total budget for 2006, which will be recycled in 2007, thanks to our beloved legislators who forgot to enact a new appropriations law.

But around P100 billion of the DepEd budget goes to salaries. The little that is left goes to investments new classrooms and school books, for instance.

To think that some bright politicos are complaining that education is already getting too much of the national budget.

Where do they want the money to go instead—PORK?

Let me remind you, bossing, that our already-rich neighbors in this part of the world are setting aside more than 20 percent of their national budgets for education.

Again, they are already rich! Yet, they are setting aside much more for education than we do.

I think we have a big problem.

In business, they are already resigned to the loss of our supposed "advantage" in skilled manpower - the English-speaking, easy-to-teach workers, for instance.

A recent survey by the Social Weather Station showed that only 47 percent of our college graduates said they could converse in the international language of business, which happens to be English.

It is now a certainty: English, as our second language, is going out the window faster than Kris Aquino can say "deal or no deal."

That's probably why this cute administration thought it was time to press the panic button.

To me, the most telling sign of trouble was when Gloriaetta tapped an unlikely guy to head DepEd, the former congressman named Jesli Lapus, a top management and finance man before he joined the government.

Lapus would have been more right for a position in the economic team.

Word went around that Gloriaetta actually wanted him there.

But it now seems that Lapus saw that he could make a bigger impact on business if he could do something for education.

He could be right, for his appointment at DepEd told us that something was terribly wrong.

For instance, the business sector revealed recently that some 600,000 jobs are waiting in the private sector, but no applicants could meet the requirements.

To redirect the thrust of education, we have to put more money into the system.

Despite the P112-billion budget for DepEd, our school system is still broke.

That's why, according to Lapus, the dream of Gloriaetta is to set aside as much money for education as we set aside for debt service.

I'm afraid it will remain a dream.

All right, thanks to this cute administration's fiscal discipline, this year's debt service accounts for only 28 percent of the budget, down from 32 percent.

But that is still huge.

I mean, if only that was the DepEd budget, it would give an additional funding of at least P170 billion to education.

And so the hard-work that is staring the hard-working Lapus in the face is this: FUNDING.

For if DepEd does not have the money, how can Lapus arrest—and I say that he must do it quickly—the continuous drop in the quality of our education, both in the public and the private schools?

***

Apparently getting desperate to show the world a semblance of credibility in the next elections, which are barely eight months away, this cute administration is ready to settle even for the problematic ballot counting system of Mega Pacific.

Again, the elections are just around the corner.

Hi-tech guys thus are saying that, given the time constraint, it is almost impossible to install an honest to goodness election automation system.

You see, the Mega Pacific contract only covered the machine-counting of the votes.

Everything else would have been to be done manually, from the filling up of the ballots to the final tallying of the result.

And we all know that those are the very phases of the election process where a lot of cheating can occur.

In other countries, such as the United States and Venezuela, the elections are fully automated.

You cast your vote through electronic ballots and it automatically goes to the electronic tallying system.

Thus, the results can be determined almost as soon as the votes are cast.

That was the system being offered to this country by a multinational company called Smartmatic, which specializes in electronic voting systems, having installed them in some 400 counties in the United States.

The other system up for consideration by our government uses ordinary personal computers.

Some senators believe it is a better choice because the computers can be donated to public

BREAKTIME/ B4

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 20, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	101,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	38.5	39	38.5	39	678,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58.5	57	58.5	2,512,400
China Banking Corp.	700	700	695	700	2,110
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.42	6,510,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	76.5	76.5	75.5	75.5	348,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40.5	41.5	40.5	41.5	3,575,800
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	42	42	42	42	100
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	13,000
Phil. Savings Bank	42	42.5	42	42.5	4,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	44.5	44.5	44.5	44.5	3,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	3.25	3.4	3.15	3.2	3,713,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	4.3	5	4.3	5	11,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1590	1590	1590	1590	100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	350,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2015	2000	2015	1,050
Ivantage Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	1,766,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49.5	50	49.5	50	1,206,600
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	48.5	49	48	49	857,400
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	19	18.75	19	561,000
Manila Electric Co. B	30	30	29.5	29.5	583,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.2	9.3	9.1	9.2	3,302,000
Petron Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.9	3.95	4,328,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.02	0.99	0.99	863,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	38,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	164,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.75	23	44,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	35	34	34.5	503,300
RFM Corp.	0.85	0.88	0.85	0.85	220,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.65	1,155,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	44,800
San Miguel Corp. B	73	74	73	74	113,200
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.75	18.25	18.25	3,779,400
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	510,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.74	1,325,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	93,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	2,704,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.4	6	5.4	6	126,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.32	1.42	1.32	1.42	56,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.6	5.2	3.5	3.9	3,721,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.5	0.5	0.44	0.5	200,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.49	0.51	0.46	0.5	47,230,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.15	0.165	0.145	0.16	23,950,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.39	100,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	27,000,000
Ayala Corp.	470	470	452.5	455	652,920
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	30,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.1	5	5	298,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	7,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.96	467,000
Apc Group, Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.235	810,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	16,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.93	1,400,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.35	507,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	166,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	9,631,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.75	552,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.2	364,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.8	6	6.6	1,746,000
Medco Holdings	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	420,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.24	1.34	4,569,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	140,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,090,000
SM Investments Corp.	235	236	232	234	394,980
South China Resources Inc.	0.92	0.94	0.92	0.94	90,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.26	60,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.115	3,700,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	40,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.5	15	14	14.75	31,086,600
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	7,557,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	310,000
Cebu Holdings, Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	21,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	20,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	162,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,880,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.51	10,200,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	10,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	1,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.42	14,057,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	400,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	70,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	300,000
Fil-Estate Land, Inc.	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.56	1,160,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.88	1.9	1.84	1.88	40,669,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.75	124,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	3,218,200
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	2,320,000
SM Development Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	1,085,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.5	8.1	8.3	20,941,000
Suntrust Home Dev., Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	340,000
Uniwide Holdings, Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Zipporah Rity Hldgs Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	36,700
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.26	7,784,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1050	1065	1050	1065	83,850
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.6	4.65	4.55	4.65	5,042,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2215	2250	2200	2200	297,490
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	4,340,000
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	200,000
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.02	106,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.046	0.045	0.046	4,900,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	2,100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	12,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.029	0.027	0.029	7,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.55	3.65	3.55	3.6	680,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.25	216,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.06	2.06	1.98	1.98	943,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	600,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.04	2.04	124,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	475,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.8	5.4	4.65	5.3	3,687,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.65	5.4	4.65	5.4	2,689,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	125,900,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	815,000
Benguet Corp. A	10	10.25	10	10	29,000
Benguet Corp. B	25	27	25	27	7,400
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.235	0.225	0.225	2,700,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	4,740,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	537,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	131,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.01	1,367,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.65	3.75	3.5	3.7	8,742,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	20.5	20.5	20.25	20.5	362,700
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,170,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	4,200,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.04	1.04	1	1.04	687,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	85,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.6	81,000

Thai coup jolts RP ...

From page B1

thi Boonyaratglin late Tuesday and has so far proved bloodless, further reassuring investors.

While the Thai stock market was closed as a result, the baht was lower, quoted at 37.735 to the dollar, down from the 37.305 level shortly before the tanks were ordered onto Bangkok's streets.

Charlotte Donavanik, executive vice president for the Bank of Ayudhya in Bangkok, said business leaders were worried about the short-term impact but added a change in government could end months of political uncertainty.

In the region, Tokyo closed down 0.98, with the coup denting sentiment although dealers there said other factors, such as concerns over the outlook for US interest rates, were also at work and probably more important. In late trade here, the market was down 0.68 percent and Kuala Lumpur had lost 0.45 percent.

Aside from the baht and the peso, the currencies of other Asian countries badly hit by the 1997 regional turmoil—the Malaysian ringgit, Indonesian rupiah and the South Korean won tumbled across the board yesterday.

Joey Cuyegkeng, a senior economist at ING Bank based here, said the Thai crisis would not weigh down on the region.

"Our view here is that the other Asian countries, including the Philippines and Indonesia, are on a sound footing, having gone into fiscal consolidation and they now have a stronger ability to withstand certain shocks," Cuyegkeng said.

Kenneth Cheng, a currency strategist at think tank Informa Global Markets based here, said the selldown in Asian financial markets yesterday was but a knee-jerk reaction.

"A lot of people think that this will die down and become a non-issue particularly in the Thai case. The coup was peaceful and the fact that they are willing to resume a democratic process sends a positive signal. But very soon, things will get back to normal," he said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas also allayed concerns that the political turbulence in Thailand would have adverse repercussions on the financial market in the Philippines, saying the country's strong macroeconomic fundamentals make it resilient to external shocks.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. commented that Asian economies in general were now more capable to weather external disturbances than they were before the Asian financial crisis in 1997 because of the reforms implemented over the years. *With a report from AFP*

CURRENCIES

September 20, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.788581	1.000000	50.1170
Japan	Yen	0.006706	0.008504	0.4262
United Kingdom	Pound	1.484031	1.881900	94.3152
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101282	0.128436	6.4368
Switzerland	Franc	0.630058	0.798977	40.0423
Canada	Dollar	0.699593	0.887154	44.4615
Singapore	Dollar	0.495589	0.628457	31.4964
Australia	Dollar	0.595156	0.754717	37.8242
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.091839	2.652661	132.9434
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210277	0.266652	13.3638
Brunei	Dollar	0.494037	0.626488	31.3977
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000109	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021074	0.026724	1.3393
UAE	Dirham	0.214709	0.272272	13.6455
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.268100	63.5534
Argentina	Peso	0.254792	0.323102	16.1929
Brazil	Real	0.367123	0.465549	23.3319
Denmark	Kroner	0.134017	0.169947	8.5172
India	Rupee	0.017139	0.021734	1.0892
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214288	0.271739	13.6187
Mexico	New Peso	0.071941	0.091228	4.5721
New Zealand	Dollar	0.523627	0.664011	33.2782
Norway	Kroner	0.120842	0.153240	7.6799
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013034	0.016529	0.8284
South Africa	Rand	0.107378	0.136166	6.8242
Korea	Won	0.000828	0.001050	0.0526
Sweden	Kroner	0.108677	0.137813	6.9068
Syria	Pound	0.015191	0.019264	0.9655
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023976	0.030404	1.5238
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000367	0.000466	0.0234

Standing out: An alternative manpower cooperative

THE ROLE OF MANPOWER CO-OPS AS A channel for outsourcing has recently brewed controversy due to accusations of labor malpractices. Job applicants and companies have been told to beware of such co-ops while allegations of deceit and exploitation are being investigated. Among the points of contention is the classification of workers as self-employed persons, which then deprives them of the statutory benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled.

The arguments raised against manpower co-ops appear to have merit for the most part. It is these same arguments, however, that make one co-op stand out as one of the best outsourcing channels in the market today: **Staff Search Asia Service Cooperative (SSA).**

SSA is in the business of job contracting and manpower services. Since 2001, the co-op has created thousands of jobs, and now serves over 20 reputable client companies. SSA was founded on the advocacy of giving secure, meaningful employment to Filipinos, especially those who cannot be absorbed by existing businesses for regular employment.

Aside from providing decent, long-term jobs, SSA protects the welfare and promotes the holistic development of its member-workers by offering enterprise co-ownership and facilitating the equitable distribution of wealth. These are in stark contrast to the practices of traditional manpower agencies or job contractors.

SSA is strongly committed to safeguarding the interests of its member-workers and clients. In light of this, the co-op utilizes an alternative model that allows it to operate in a manner that is not only legally safe, but also ethically and morally sound. Consider the following:

SSA is a service co-op duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA). SSA was organized in accordance with the provisions of R.A. 6938 (Cooperative Code of the Philippines), which authorizes the establishment of co-ops engaged in "labor...and other services". Its member-workers enjoy the rights and privileges afforded them by law, including dividends and patronage refund.

SSA believes in the existence of a trilateral relationship involving the co-op, its member-workers, and its clients. SSA does not espouse self-employment for its member-workers. All professional and non-professional member-workers of SSA are employees of the co-op. A contract exists between the co-op and each client, as well as between the co-op and each member-worker.

SSA is registered with the Department of Labor and Employment under Department Order No. 18-02 (Series of 2002). SSA is a legitimate job contractor, having substantial capital to perform the services required of it, as well as the right to control the performance of its member-workers. By virtue of such registration, clients are assured that they are not dealing with a labor-only contractor.

SSA is licensed as a Private Recruitment and Placement Agency (PRPA). SSA is authorized to undertake recruitment and placement activities.

SSA ensures that its employees receive all statutory benefits. SSA is a member of the Social Security System (SSS), the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and the Pag-Ibig Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig), and makes certain that all contributions are remitted promptly. SSA also grants five-day incentive leaves to qualified employees.

SSA imposes upon its member-workers the withholding tax rates applicable to employees. SSA withholds from its member-workers the taxes due from employees and remits such promptly to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

SSA has been certified tax-exempt by the BIR. The BIR recognizes that SSA is an entity exempt from tax, including VAT. SSA was able to qualify for exemption by ensuring that none of its members, whether professional or non-professional, held more share capital than the given maximum limit. The corollary benefit is that all members, regardless of rank, can share equally in the dividends of the co-op.

SSA undertakes only management and governance practices that are lawful, ethical, and moral. SSA believes that being one with the law constitutes a majority, and thus complies accordingly. The co-op also upholds the principle of transparency in all dealings with its member-workers, client companies, and other stakeholders.

Clearly, SSA is a manpower co-op that operates fully within the bounds of the law.

Staff Search Asia Service Cooperative may be contacted via telephone number (63 2) 882 3936 or e-mail address staff_search_asia@yahoo.com.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Online booking ...

From page B1

[tickets] from anywhere else," Gitsis said of the new booking system.

He admitted, however, that the local explosion in online airline bookings was not a Seair original, but in fact, a scheme pioneered by another would-be giant killer.

"More and more people in the Philippines are buying [airline tickets] over the Internet because of Cebu Pacific," Gitsis said.

Indeed because of its low-cost structure, relying heavily on online booking was a logical choice for Gokongwei-owned Cebu Pacific Air as it struggled to carve out a niche in an industry dominated by longtime monopoly Philippine Airlines (PAL).

The scheme proved so successful that the airline's servers crashed on several occasions when the its low-fare promos were offered to the public online.

Cebu Pacific's business model meant, however, that it could not match PAL's extensive nationwide branch network nor offer travel agents the same level of commissions the Lucio Tan-owned airline did for pushing its tickets to clients.

"It is important for us to 'revenue manage' our operations," Cebu Pacific marketing director Candice Iyog said in an earlier interview. "For us to effectively do this, early bookings are important, including online bookings."

Nowadays, the bulk of Cebu Pacific clients who book online still trek to crowded ticketing offices to pay for their reservations, as clients have yet to warm up to the online payment system offered on its website.

At present, Iyog said "between 12 and 15 percent" of Cebu Pacific flyers book their flights online. The airline obviously wants more of its clients to book online, as this will allow it to reduce selling costs further.

Not everyone, however, is jumping onto the online booking bandwagon with as much gusto as Seair and Cebu Pacific, or even rival tourist flyer Asian Spirit, which also has a basic online booking facility. *(To be continued)*

Zobel holding firm sells 6.9% stake in Ayala Corp. for ₱10.6B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MERMAC INC., THE HOLDING firm of the Zobel family, sold its 6.9-percent stake in Ayala Corp. for P10.6 billion ($210 million) to unnamed foreign investment funds.

Mermac sold 23.84 million shares at P443 apiece through a special block sale at the Philippine Stock Exchange handled by the Deutsche Bank group.

Ayala closed at P455 a share, down 4 percent from its seven-year high of P477.50 last Sept. 19, after investors took profits on blue chips yesterday.

At P477.50, Ayala's price traded 52 percent higher from its 2005 closing price of P315 a share. This was also the stock's highest level since it closed at P494.79 on May 10, 1999.

FinanceAsia.com reported yesterday that Asian investors were said to have been the most prominent with regard to the number of orders for Ayala's shares, but in terms of "significant" orders, these were widely spread between Asia, Europe and the United States.

It added that at least 50 investors were believed to have participated in the deal. No orders were pulled out as a result of the events in Thailand, according to people familiar with the offering, the online edition reported.

After the sale, Mermac, which is chaired by Ayala patriarch Jaime Zobel de Ayala, retained majority of the conglomerate with 51 percent, down from 58 percent before the deal.

Ayala said in a separate statement sent to the bourse that the shares were sold to "various investor groups at a discount of 5.2 percent" using the company's weighted average in the last 10 trading days.

Mermac is a family-owned company established in 1960 by the late Ayala Corp. matriarch Mercedes McMicking and her late husband, Col. Joseph McMicking.

Mermac is now owned by the present generation of the Zobel de Ayalas with brothers and Ayala executives Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II (Ayala chair and chief executive officer) and Fernando Zobel de Ayala (Ayala president and chief operating officer) sharing the co-vice chair post at Mermac.

Mercedes, who died in Sotogrande, Spain last Dec. 3, personally held the biggest stake in Ayala through Mermac.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that before her death, Mercedes had bequeathed her fortune equally to the nine children of her nephews Jaime Zobel de Ayala (seven children, including Jaime Augusto and Fernando) and the late Enrique Zobel (Iñigo and Mercedes). The same sources said that this setup would ensure that Mermac and Ayala Corp. would continue to be run by the father-and-sons team of Jaime, Jaime Augusto and Fernando.

Mercedes' passing has triggered widespread speculation that Ayala Corp. has become ripe for a boardroom shake-up and vulnerable to corporate raiders.

In a statement yesterday, however, Zobel assured all Ayala shareholders that the sale by Mermac of its 6.9-percent stake in Ayala would not result in any change in the governance structure of the more than 170-year-old company.

Tax perks seen swaying Shell to expand

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL REFINER PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM Corp. continues to express concern about the local incentives environment, one factor that it is considering in making a final decision on whether to expand its operations here or to shut down its refinery.

Coming from various meetings in Europe, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said officials from Shell parent firm Royal Dutch Shell Plc still had concerns regarding the current incentive schemes in the downstream oil sector.

"What they want is for those incentives that were made available at the time they came in to still be available throughout the life of their investment," he said.

"And that is expected considering that refinery investments are huge, and the potential cost, for instance, of a refinery expansion will be at a minimum of $1 billion to $1.5 billion," he added.

Lotilla said that Shell officials indicated that the review of its Philippine operations would be completed by the end of the year or early 2007.

The result of the review would determine whether Shell would remain an oil refiner in the country or just become a finished product importer like Chevron Philippines Inc. (formerly Caltex), which closed down its refinery in late 2003.

In an earlier interview, Shell country chair Edgar Chua said a tariff differential could be a big help from the government. This, however, was not a guarantee for the retention of the Shell refinery here or for additional investments.

"But it will be up to the government. We gave the (Department of Energy) a position paper. We need some support," he added.

Lotilla had earlier said that the government was willing to explore the possibility of instituting some sort of tariff differential between refiners and pure importers.

However, before doing so, he said a careful study of the legal implications of such a move had to be done, particularly as the first downstream oil deregulation law was struck down by the Supreme Court because of such a provision.

The Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association, for its part, had said it would oppose any move to put in place a tariff differential between crude and refined petroleum products.

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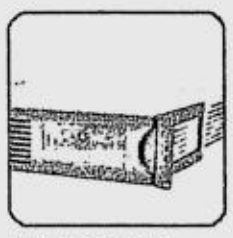

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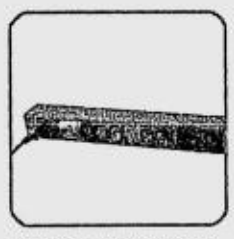

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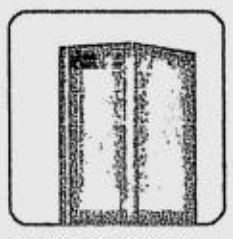

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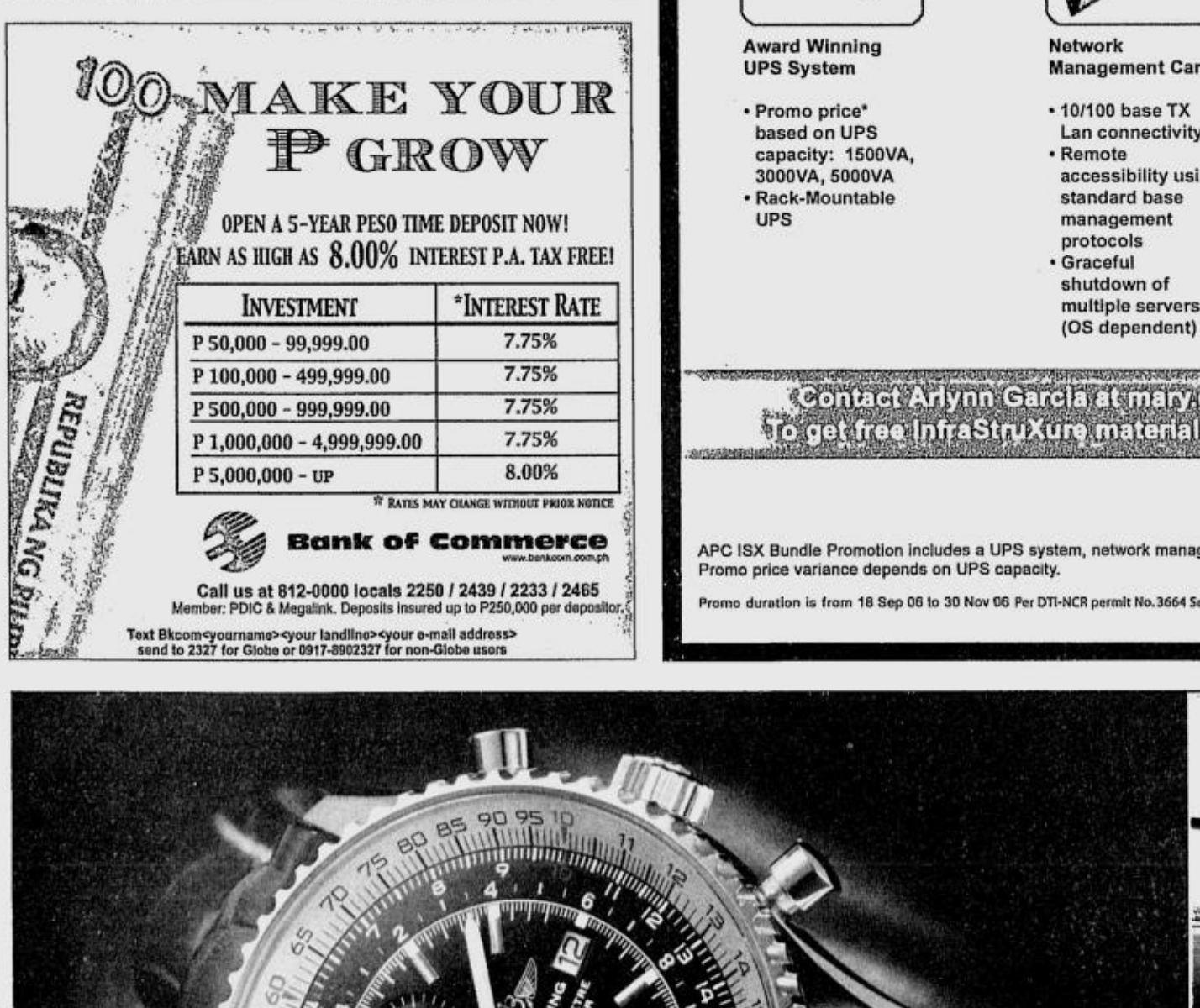

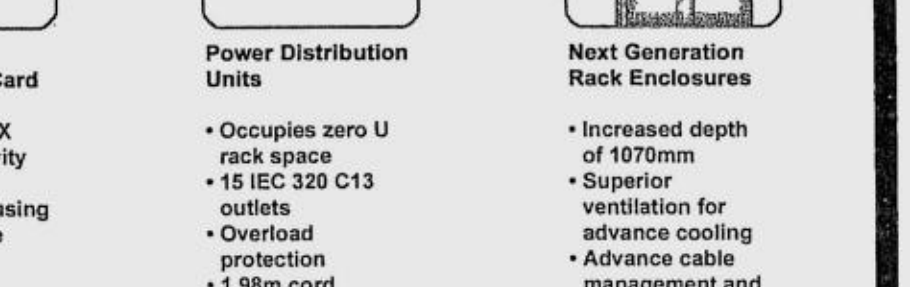

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US firm eyes ethanol plant

By Christine A. Gaylican

AMERICAN FIRM FAR EAST BIOFUels LLC has joined the growing list of investors interested in the country's bio-ethanol industry, the Sugar Regulatory Authority said.

Far East Biofuels LLC plans an integrated ethanol facility in Pampanga that may cost at least P1 billion in initial investments, according to SRA Administrator James Christopher Ledesma in an interview late Tuesday.

Aside from Far East Biofuels, other potential investors include Japan's Marubeni Corp., and the Toyota Group, which visited the SRA to ask if the Department of Agriculture's attached agency could make initial feasibility studies on the project.

Ledesma said these companies were encouraged by the developments in British firm Bronzeoak Ltd.'s construction of a P1.5-billion ethanol plant in Bukidnon.

Far East Biofuels plans facility in Pampanga

The proposed plant would have a production capacity of 150,000 liters a day, bigger than the plant Bronzeoak is building in partnership with the National Development Corp. in San Carlos City in Negros Occidental province.

Ledesma, thus, appealed to Congress for the immediate approval of measures that will boost the development and use of indigenous energy sources (like ethanol, bio-diesel and compressed natural gas) and lessen our dependence on imported oil.

Pending in both houses of Congress is the proposed "Bio-Ethanol Fuel Act of 2005" that aims to encourage the commercial production of ethanol as alternative fuel.

Ethanol is alcohol extracted from crops like sugarcane, corn, cassava, potato, sorghum, barley and wheat. Ethanol is now widely used in Brazil, the United States, Canada and in lesser degrees in China, India, Japan and Thailand as a blending component for gasoline.

The ratio is usually 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent unleaded gasoline, called the E-10 blend.

There is also an E-85 blend containing 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent unleaded gasoline which can be used as substitute fuel.

Under the proposed Bio-Ethanol Fuel Act, production of this indigenous fuel will be given attractive incentives.

The bill reduces to only 1 percent the tariff duty on the importation of equipment, machinery and inputs for 10 years.

Aboitiz unit sells 18M treasury shares for P91M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, THE INvestment arm of the Aboitiz group, yesterday sold P91 million worth of treasury shares.

The sale was seen as part of the group's plan to beef up its war chest as it prepares to bid for big power assets set to be privatized.

AEV sold 18 million treasury shares yesterday at P5.10 a piece, out of its total 800 million treasury stock.

"There has been increased demand for shares. The fundamentals of the Philippines look a lot better now with the fiscal deficit under control, tax collections on target and low interest rates. People tend to put their money in stocks," AEV executive vice president and chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz said in a phone interview.

Aboitiz said the sale of treasury shares would help fund AEV's proposed power investments.

He said AEV has enough funds to bankroll its future acquisitions through the sale of its 800 million treasury shares and existing credit facilities.

AEV is interested in the government's planned auction of the 360-megawatt Magat hydropower plant in the northern province of Isabela and the 600-megawatt coal-fired Masinloc plant in Zambales.

AEV's recent sale will also help fund its P4-bllion Sibulan hydropower project in Davao del Sur.

The Aboitiz group's Hedcor Sibulan Inc. will put up two independent mini-hydropower generation projects with installed capacities of 16 and 26 megawatts, respectively.

Nograles bucks Holcim perks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A LAWMAKER HAS URGED THE BOARD OF Investments to hold back incentives for Holcim Philippines Inc.'s P1-billion rehabilitation project for its cement factory in Davao City, saying the facility was polluting the area.

Majority Floor Leader Prospero C. Nograles, who represents the first district of Davao City, said the plant that the firm wanted to work on "has not complied with world-class environmental standards."

In a letter to BOI Managing Head Elmer C. Hernandez dated Sept. 5, Nograles said Holcim's plant had become a health hazard in the surrounding communities.

"I am aware and concerned (about) numerous reports of thick cement dust polluting what used to be clean and breathable air in the area, which has caused several health problems among the residents of Davao," the solon said.

When reached for comment, Holcim senior vice president Jocelyn Perez said company officials could not give any since they have not seen Nograles' letter.

Perez said Holcim was only seeking from BOI the duty-free importation of capital goods rather than the full set of incentives.

Projects registered with BOI are entitled to tax holidays of up to six years aside from other fiscal and non-fiscal perks.

Earlier this month, the Switzerland-based firm announced it would invest up to P1 billion over the next 12 months to bring its manufacturing facility in Davao City back to full operating capacity by mid-2007.

Aside from the plant, Holcim operates integrated facilities in La Union, Misamis Oriental and Bulacan, where the firm has an extra production unit that could turn out 800,000 tons of cement yearly, but which has been shut down since 1998.

This month's announcement came after the collapse of a storage silo earlier this year damaged the factory's main production line.

Holcim officials had said the investment was being made despite the prevailing production overcapacity in the industry, which they said showed the firm's optimism in the prospects of the local economy.

Breaktime

From page B2

schools after the elections.

Sure, boss, but I have only one question: Can the PCs really do the job?

***

Word is going around that our favorite insurance playboy enjoys the protection of burly bodyguards who go around with him even in important business gatherings, such as the recent appreciation party of Metrobank for its clients.

The bodyguards looked like they had military or police training.

Our sources swore that they recognized the bodyguards as coming from some military outfit—perhaps the elite Special Action Forces.

Just as an aside, this cute administration of Gloriaetta already recalled the military men assigned to secure the safety of former President Corazon Aquino.

In that sense, I say that our handsome idol of the insurance sector is lucky.

But just how popular is this guy among his peers that he thinks he needs such protection?

A story goes that, in one of the most exclusive sports clubs in the country, in which our hero used to be a member of the board, he once had a "gentleman's agreement" with a fellow director.

Well, our handsome devil already missed several board meetings, and under the rules, he would have to resign.

He simply did not want to quit.

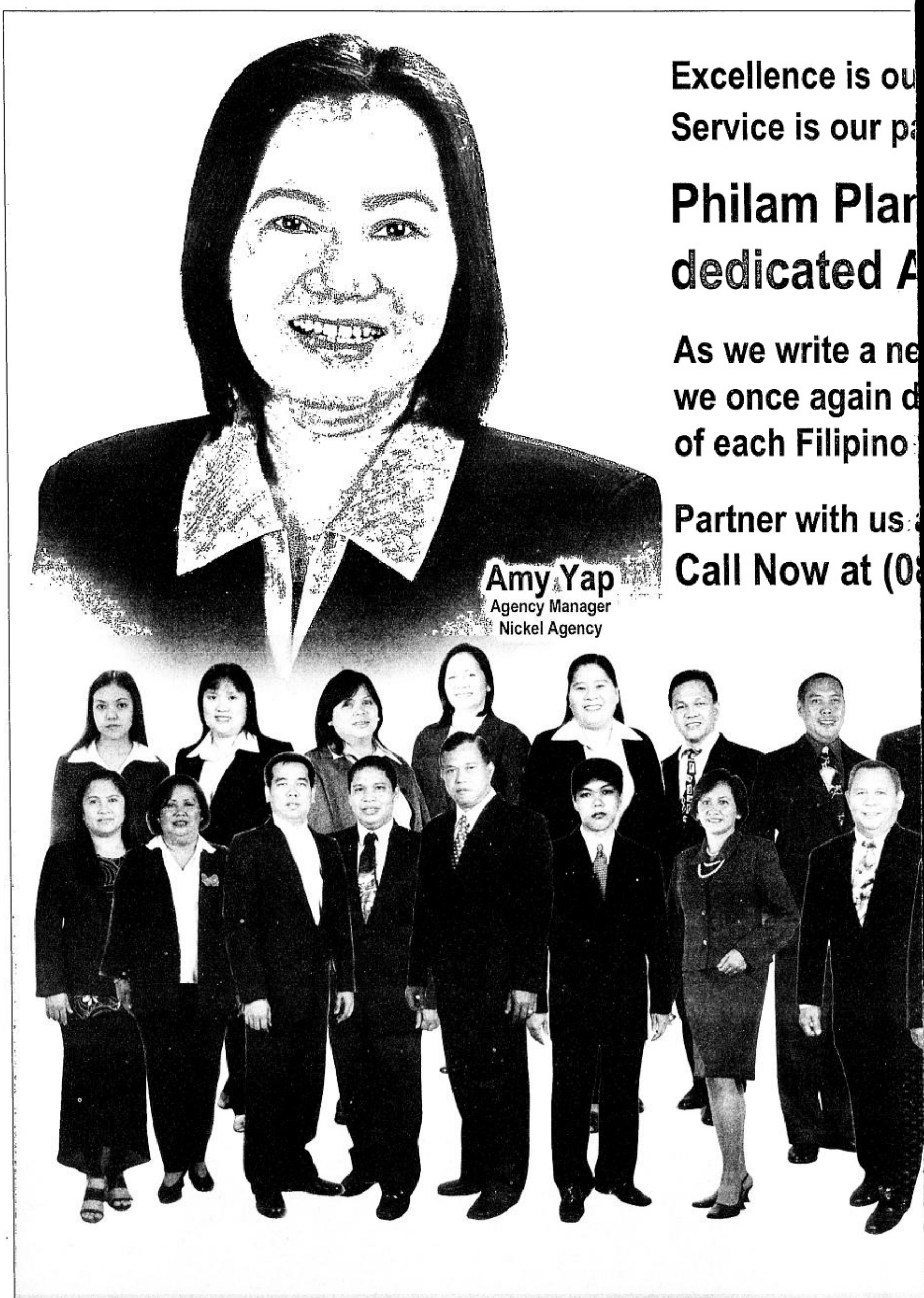
One of the board members, who was said to be a good friend of our hero as the two of them shared a passion for expensive cars, offered to resign with him.

It was a face-saving way to resolve the issue, and for the club to be true to its tradition.

With the gentleman's agreement in place, the friend resigned from the board.

Guess what? The handsome womanizing insurance man did not.

That kind of popular!



Listed firms' earnings up 30%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE COMBINED EARNINGS OF companies listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) grew by 29.7 percent to P106.6 billion in the first half of 2006 from P82.21 billion in the same period last year.

PSE president Francis Lim said the data was based on the unaudited financial statements of 231 listed companies that had submitted financial reports to the exchange as of Sept. 19.

"The impressive income performance of the listed companies reaffirms perceptions that the economy stands on a solid ground, despite the challenging political environment here and abroad," Lim noted.

Lim also said that from January to June this year, stock prices—as tracked by the PSEi—rose 4 percent to 2,178.79 points from 2,096.04 as of end-2005. The broader All-Shares index gained 7.6 percent in the same period.

On Wednesday, the PSEi closed at 2,512.76 points, or 19.9 percent higher than the end-2005 level. Similarly, the All Shares index rose by 20.7 percent.

"Listed companies are piling up earnings at a clip faster than the pace of increase of their stock prices," Lim said. "Certainly, any discerning investor will take the information as cue to buy local stocks."

Lim said the combined gross revenue of the listed companies from January to June went up by 18.7 percent to P989.13 billion from P832.99 billion a year earlier.

He also said that, on the average, all industry groups enjoyed higher earnings, including those in the small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME) board.

All sectors enjoyed double-digit growth in income, except for the services sector, which posted a 6-percent expansion in earnings. But listed companies in the services sector accounted for the biggest share of the income pie as their combined net profit last year hit P27.67 billion from P26.13 billion a year earlier, Lim added.

Companies in the SME board enjoyed the best rate of increase in earnings at 503 percent as they turned around operations and posted combined earnings of P7.98 million after suffering P1.98 million in total losses for the same six-month period last year.

The mining and oil sector enjoyed the highest income growth rate as the combined profit of companies in this sector reached P1.98 billion during the first half, or 93.6 percent higher than the P1.02 billion for the same period last year.

My stock pick for 2007-2008

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

TODAY IS NOT MY NORMAL WRITING day but I came across an article so compelling that I couldn't wait until Tuesday in case someone preempts me.

The article published by ABG Sundal Collier is in Norwegian and is an in-depth study of Crew Gold, considered to be undervalued by 65 percent. Members of the board, assembled in 2002, have enough degrees to fill a thermometer. They come from Newmont, Rio Tinto Zinc, Anglo Ashanti (the largest mine in South Africa), Schlumberger and Merrill Lynch. However, this article is not about Crew, except to say that the company is delivering what it promises, and is highly regarded. Six Canadian brokers cover the stock, five have it as a BUY, one as a STRONG BUY. This is important because credibility is an important factor in what follows.

The stock I wish to write about is Apex, now referred to as Masara. My colleague, Nicky Franco, who heads our research department, did most of the analysis, but my own observations have also been incorporated. Apex got off to a bad start when it got itself suspended for not filing reports on time. However, it confirmed in a PSE disclosure that the first phase of testing had started and that the 2,900-ton per day plant would be operational by the beginning of the second quarter, on schedule, as promised.

Much like the fabled cave of Ali Baba, the underground mines of Apex in Compostela Valley are full of treasures. There are no less than 13 veins but, so far, only four have been explored and the areas contain measured and indicated resources of 1.4 million ounces of gold, sufficient for seven to nine years of production at 200,000 ounces in 2008. Additional drilling throughout 2007 is expected to dramatically increase this to at least 3 million ounces. A pro rata calculation would yield 4.5 million ounces. There are also 3 ounces of silver for every ounce of gold plus an unknown amount of copper.

Masara has narrow veins, rather like myself, but these can be mined and one of the Australian directors has extensive experience in other countries. The true value of Apex will not be known until next year but the mine has been in existence for over 20 years and experience in the Nalunaq mine in Greenland will greatly assist the company in mining these veins, otherwise, it would all be in vein. There are veins 1-kilometer long and all 13 converge into a horsetail (this is a horsetralian expression). This leads to the possibility of open pit mining, which would be cheaper to do, even though it's infra dig. The varicose veins can be widened to 3 or 4 meters since the outer zones are only of minimally less quality compared to the core veins.

There are a few gold/copper deposits, including one that was estimated by the previous owner to contain as much as 1 million ounces of gold! The company is so preoccupied with the immediate task on hand that exploration of this potentially enormous project will have to wait until 2007. But by the end of next year, Apex might announce plans to expand the plant by 50-60 percent (up to 4,500 tons of one per day and 300, 000 ounces of gold production). This would make it an extremely valuable asset and some major copper exploration companies have shown interest in getting a piece of the action.

From here on, Nicky holds the stage but I believe his figures are too conservative, and even he agrees. He bases his calculations on gold at $575 an ounce, silver at $10 an ounce, a recovery rate of only 80 percent (I am sticking to 85 percent) and a production cost of $220 (this will fall to $180 by 2008). He assumes full corporation tax of 32 percent but there are $50 million in losses carried forward. On this basis, his projected profit for 2007 is P1.45 billion, giving earnings per share at P1.92 and a price/earnings ratio of 2.6. For 2008, his projection is P1.93 billion, equal to earnings per share of P2.56 and a price/earnings ratio of 1.9. In other countries, the P/E ratios range from 8 to 14 but Nicky has assumed a P/E of only 5, at par with Azerbaijan, wherever that is. Every 5-percent change in the gold price means a deviation of 10 percent.

So his net asset value for 2007 is P12.25 but if Apex can confirm all the resources mentioned earlier, this rises to P18.75. In case you think he has gone overboard, ABG, who did the study, stated that the contribution of Masara to Crew's net asset value was 3.8 Norwegian kroner. In case you are not familiar with the exchange rate, this equals P25.80. A Canadian company, Sprott Securities, did a valuation last May on lesser data and came up with P24.50. And Pareto Securities has come out with a mind-boggling 8.1 kroners, equal to P55! They can have my shares.

Once Apex starts making good profits, it is likely to be included in the Phisix. Then foreign brokers would cover it and numerous funds would align their portfolios to include it. We rate the shares a STRONG BUY and expect the price to reach double digits by the end of next year. It is the most exciting stock since PAX, which has tripled. Note they have the same letters in their symbols.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

SM to open ₱1-B mall in Lipa City

MALL OPERATOR SM PRIME HOLDINGS Inc., banking on the growth prospects in Batangas, is opening a P1-billion mall in Lipa City on Sept. 22.

SM City Lipa will be the second SM Prime mall in the province. The first is in Batangas City.

Occupying 103,242 square meters of land, the new mall has a gross floor area of 77,682 square meters, the company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

SM Prime president Hans Sy said that Batangas is an important location for SM Malls considering its large and progressive population base, sea ports, rich marine resources, and its relative proximity to Metro Manila.

"Its growth will be one of the fastest among the key provinces in the country and we would like to be a bigger part of that growth," Sy said.

"Lipa is a bustling city and is one of only three key cities in Batangas. We are happy to make it a part of the still growing family of SM Prime malls," Sy added.

Lipa City has a population of nearly 200,000 and boasts of natural attractions such as Mounts Malarayat and Makulot. More importantly, it is a major commercial, educational and industrial destination.

The development of the retail sector in the provinces will be influenced by the growing BPO activity, property consultant CB Richard Ellis recently said in a study. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA** invites PhilGEPS registered contractors to apply for the following items:

Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date / Time: Pre-Bid Conference	Date / Time: Deadline/ Opening of Bids	Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
1. Development of Former CDCP Area, Zone IV	P 15,657,853.00	Oct. 17, 2006 10:00 AM	Oct. 30, 2006 10:00 AM	P 5,000.00
2. Construction of Museum at the Jardin Maria Clara L. Lobregat, Pasonanca Park	P 11,917,589.45	Oct. 17, 2006 10:00 AM	Oct. 30, 2006 10:00 AM	P 4,000.00
3. Development of Jardin Maria Clara L. Lobregat at Pasonanca Park	P 16,504,037.76	Oct. 17, 2006 10:00 AM	Oct. 30, 2006 10:00 AM	P 5,000.00

The last day of the submission of the accomplished eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on **October 3, 2006** at 12:00 Noon in the Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Office, City Hall, Zamboanga City.

The Bid documents shall be available at the City Mayor's Office, Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division, City Hall, Zamboanga City starting **October 4 to 13, 2006** upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid conference shall be held at **City Engineer's Office, Conference Hall, City Hall, Zamboanga City.**

The Bidder shall drop and enclose the original of the Technical Proposal in one sealed envelope; whereas, the original of the Financial Proposal shall be enclosed in another sealed envelope. Both envelopes shall then be placed in another single envelope in the bid box located at the above-mentioned address.

For more information, please call the Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division at telephone no. **[062] 992-7763.**

The **CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **DR. MARIO D. ARRIOLA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 21 & 26, 2006)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time: Pre-Bid Conference	Date/Time: Deadline/ Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
1 Lot Backfiling of Documents of Various Head Office Units for the Document Imaging System Project	P3,300,000.00	September 29, 2006 2:00 PM	October 11, 2006 1:00 PM	P 1,700.00
3,220 Rolls Thermal Tape Stock # 856681, For NCR 7720 Encoding Machine	P2,047,920.00	October 5, 2006 9:00 AM	October 25, 2006 1:00 PM	P 1,100.00
145,000 pcs. LANDBANK T-Shirt	P10,875,000.00	October 5, 2006 1:30 PM	October 25, 2006 1:00 PM	P 5,500.00
5,640 Pcs. Ribbon "Original" Re-order No. 07K4446 Length: 23m x 6.35mm (for IBM 9068-A01 Passbook Printer) 640 Pcs. Ribbon "Original" for MICR Fuji Encoder Model 1026/27	P4,292,491.00 480,307.00	October 5, 2006 10:00 AM	October 25, 2006 1:00 PM	P 2,400.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting September 21, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes placed in single outer envelope and sealed accordingly in the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the LANDBANK-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos. 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - Sept. 21 & 28, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The *PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA)*, through the *corporate operating budget for calendar year 2006* intends to apply the sum of *Sixty One Million Eight Hundred Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Three and 96/100 Pesos (P61,813,423.96)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Design, Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 25/30 MVA Transformer, MV Switchgear, 69 KV Gas Circuit Breaker and Disconnect Switch, 69 KV Metering, SCADA System and Other Vital Substation Accessories in Baguio City Economic Zone*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PEZA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for *Design, Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 25/30 MVA Transformer, MV Switchgear, 69 KV Gas Circuit Breaker and Disconnect Switch, 69 KV Metering, SCADA System and Other Vital Substation Accessories in Baguio City Economic Zone*. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents.

Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and certified true copy of its G-EPS registration certificate on or before *5:00 p.m. 27 September 2006* at *3rd Floor, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City* and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of *Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00)*. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on *03 October 2006 at 11:00 a.m.* at the *3rd Floor, PEZA Bldg. Roxas Blvd. cor. San Luis St., Pasay City* and the opening of Eligibility Documents shall be at *2:00 p.m. of the said date* and address. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from *PEZA* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 a.m.* to *5:00 p.m.* on *10 October 2006*.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00)*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before *5:00 p.m. 10 October 2006*.

PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on *11 October 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the following address *6th Floor, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. cor. San Luis St., Pasay City*.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before *11:00 a.m. of 23 October 2006*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit at least one percent (1%) of ABC and GSIS Surety Bond at least two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on *23 October 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at *2:00 p.m. on 23 October 2006*.

Completion of the Works is required by within 214 Calendar Days from receipt of Notice to Proceed.

PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No (02) 551-3443
Fax (02) 551-9587
website: www.peza.gov.ph

BAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 15 & 21, 2006)

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO BID

The Pag-IBIG Fund is inviting interested individuals, juridical persons, Fund officers and employees to submit offers to purchase by way of individual Sealed Bids on an "AS IS, WHERE IS Basis" for the following unserviceable Motor vehicles:

DESCRIPTION	NO. OF UNITS
1996 Toyota Corolla XL	5 units
1993 Toyota Tamaraw FX 1.5	1 unit
1994 Toyota Tamaraw FX Wagon	12 units
1995 Mitsubishi Lancer	9 units
1994 Honda Civic Esi, Sedan	7 units
1995 Nissan Vanette	1 unit
TOTAL	35 units

Bidding Guidelines will be available at the Property Custodianship Division, General Services Department, Rm 704, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, City of Makati beginning September 21, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Hundred Pesos (P 100.00) only.

Pre-bid conference shall be held on September 29, 2006 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at Room 602, 6th floor, Multi-Purpose Hall, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Schedule of submission and opening of bids will be announced during the said conference.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the Fund. Further, the Pag-IBIG Fund assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Cesar V. Racoma at 894-58-15 or 811-42-62.

(Sgd.) **DELIA L. BERNARDO**
Vice President, Administration Group
Chair, Disposal Committee

(PDI--Sept. 21, 22 & 23, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT MS. KRISTINE MARIE E. MUNSAYAC CEASED TO BE A STOCKHOLDER, DIRECTOR AND OFFICER OF EMISSARY RECRUITMENT GROUP, INC. EFFECTIVE AUGUST 04, 2006 DUE TO HER RESIGNATION AND DIVESTMENT OF ALL HER SHARES OF STOCKS AND INTERESTS FROM THE COMPANY EFFECTIVE ON THE SAME DATE. ANY TRANSACTION ENTERED INTO BY HER IN BEHALF OF THE COMPANY AFTER KNOWLEDGE OF HER SEPARATION OR THE LATEST AFTER THIS PUBLICATION SHALL NOT BE HONORED/RECOGNIZED BY THE COMPANY. EMISSARY IS A LAND-BASED RECRUITMENT AGENCY WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT U-9, G/F THE ROYAL PLAZA, 648 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE, MANILA.

THIS PUBLICATION IS DONE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE 2002 POEA RULES AND REGULATIONS.

EMISSARY RECRUITMENT GROUP, INC.

(PDI-Sept. 21, 2006)

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First nat'l congress focus on Alzheimer's Disease

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (AD), THE MOST common type of dementia which is an age-related condition causing long-term disability and requiring chronic care, not only from members of the family, but also from many sectors of the community and society, will be the focus of the First National Congress of the Alzheimer's Disease Association of the Philippines (ADAP) as part of the World Alzheimer's Day celebration from Sept. 21-23 at the Philippine Plaza Hotel. Congress theme is "Alzheimer's Disease: Ako, Ikaw, Tayo."

The Scientific Committee has organized an interesting array of salient topics and issues: Together in Facing the Challenges of Dementia; Phenomenology of AD in the Philippines and Asia; Pharmacological and non-pharmacological Approaches in AD Management; Legal and Ethical Issues in AD; Care of AD patients; Lifelong Learning and AD Prevention and Economics of AD and Patient's Benefits; and on the third day of the symposium, entire teaching courses on ADAP Recommendations in Clinical Practice and Caring for Individuals with AD.

On Sept. 23, ADAP will hold its traditional Memory Walk, joining the rest of the world in celebrating the centennial of the discovery by Alois Alzheimer of this neuro-degenerative disease. This year's international theme is "No Time to Lose," an urgent reminder to everyone that we need to act now as the number of people with dementia around the world especially in Asia is rising dramatically. Participants will assemble at the Rajah Sulayman Plaza around the Baywalk area, Roxas Boulevard, Manila at 5:30 am and walk towards the Quirino Grandstand for a short program and snacks. For a generous donation of P300.00, one can either participate in the walk or sponsor a "walker." In return, a commemorative t-shirt and cap will be given to the participant for use in the walk. Registration for the congress and teaching course can be done online, log on to www.alzphilippines.com. or call tel. no. 723-1039, Rm. 410 Medical Arts Bldg., St. Luke's Medical Center, E. Rodriguez Sr.

OBITUARIES

My soul finds rest in God alone;
My salvation comes from Him. Psalm 62:1

Our dearly beloved Papa

Angel J. Liwag

(Retired Director, Bureau of Internal Revenue)
1926 - 2006

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 19, 2006 at the age of 80.

His loving wife, Conching (+); children Rose, Doy, Mike, Marilou, Manny, Embong, Gabby, Pito, Marites, Cecil, Louie, Juancho and Enteng, sons-in-law Gambie and Jess, daughters-in-law Dada, Gigi, Mela, Cynthia, Weng, Eloisa, Malou and Llyn; grandchildren Rya, Angelo, Mi-jay, Camille, Hanna, Paola, Trisha, Conalu, Pitapie, Jayjay, Jojo, Poknoy, Angelica, Angelene, EG Boy, Mikee, Cio, Jolo, Ralph, Paolo and Nica, brothers and sisters Elisa (+), Luis (+), Jose (+), Ester and Mike, brother-in-law Joe Sepulveda, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Faith Chapel, Don Bosco, Makati. Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Paranaque after the 2:00 p.m. Mass in Don Bosco on Sunday, September 24.

Message of Thanks

We, the family – **Bombing, Barry, Paolo, Debra, Carlo** and **Mikko** – as well as the relatives and friends of the late

DELIA CASTAÑEDA GUTIERREZ

who died in the Grace of our Lord on September 6, 2006

wish to express our deepest gratitude to all of you who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, and who, in one way or another, condoled and comforted us.

We will always remember the overwhelming support you gave our family in our hour of bereavement.

WE ACCEPT
• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
• MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY
• REQUIEMS

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

Our Dearly Beloved Dating

BENJAMIN J. FLOR

peacefully joined our Lord and his wife Lourdes on Septembr 18, 2006 at the age of 79.

He shall be missed by his children **Jean, David, Prescy** and **Johnny, Mel**; grandchildren **Joanna Paola, John Patrick, Julian Philippe, Trisha Lorraine** and **David Brian**; brothers **Jose** and **Jesus** and sister-in-law **Margie** and **Portia**. They and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina Chapels 3 & 4.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 24, 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

I am the King's good servant, but God's first.
(St. Thomas More)

JUSTICE EDUARDO PECSON CAGUIOA

magistrate and teacher of the law, loving husband and devoted father

(14 March 1916 – 19 September 2006)

Our Dad passed on, in the arms of our Mom, his wife, *Pilar*, into the loving arms of his Lord Jesus Christ, at 3:00 p.m., on September 19, 2006.

We, his children, *Tes*, *Mercy* and Ed, *Eddieboy* (†), *Pat* and Jujie, *Vic* and Prescy, *Ray* and En, *Minette* and Bob, *Ben* and Gel, *Ardis* and Robert, together with all his twenty grandchildren, his eight great-grandchildren, and his brothers and sisters, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Dad's remains lie in state at the Resurrection Chapel of the Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish Church at Philamlife Homes, Quezon City. After the 12:30 p.m. Mass at the Resurrection Chapel, he will be laid to rest at 3:p.m. on Sunday, September 24, 2006, at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Quezon City.

Lux In Domino
Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

RUSTICA DELA PEÑA AGAS

Retired Chief Probation and Parole Officer
Department of Justice

Peacefully joined our dear Lord Almighty on September 17, 2006 at the age of 77.

Her bereaved husband **Atty. Juan L. Agas**; her children **Giovanni** and **Tessie**, **Atty. Volt** and **Mimi**, **Jonathan** and **Amy**, **Dr. Pamela**, **Michelle**, **Christian** (†) and **Maricar**, **Lyndon** and **May**; her grandchildren **Vanessa** (†), **Vanjo**, **Jillian**, **Blooie**, **Joyce**, **Jerome**, **Jineb**, **Janelle**, **Jamela**, **Franz**, **Jana**, **Tria**, **Krishna**, **Krishtan**, **Kiahna**, **Vincent**, **Nikki**, **Dave**, **Anthony**; her brothers and sisters-in-law **Tony** and **Julie**, **Jess** and **Lita**, **Maeng** and **Nita**, **Eddie** and **Precy**, sister and brother-in-law **Lydia** and **Cerio** (†) and all other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayers for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, along G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 23, 2006 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Caloocan City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

More CLASSIFIED ADS:

Supreme Court of the Phils. A6
Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority A8
La Union Electric Cooperative A8
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.....A14
Philippine Rice Research Inst. A20
Insurance Commission A21
Department of Labor and Employment ..A22
Province of Bukidnon A22

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

IRENE MOROTA BULURAN

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 16, 2006

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled and comforted us in our days of bereavement.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." ***John 11:25-26***

DR. JOSE B. MANIWANG, SR., PhD

of MANABO, ABRA
President, Security & Safety Corporation of the Philippines

Peacefully joined our Lord and his parents and wife on September 18, 2006 at the age of 86.

His children: **Eduardo, Reynaldo, Jose Jr., Antonio, Corazon, Josefina, Cecilia, Manolito** and **Cornelio;** daughters-in-law, grandchildren, relatives, colleagues, friends and staff request the pious readers to join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment shall be on September 24, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, at 9:00 A.M.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

BUSINESS

Gov't gets ₱6.6B in dividends from state firms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT collected P6.6 billion in dividends from state-owned firms in the first eight months of the year, surpassing the full-year collection last year.

In 2005, dividends turned in by government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) hit P5.63 billion.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had remitted the biggest dividends in the January-to-August period at P2.716 billion.

The other major dividends contributors to the government during the period were: The Philippine Ports Authority, P1.64 billion; Development Bank of the Philippines, P736 million; Land Bank of the Philippines, P507 million; Philippine Economic Zone Authority, P394 million, and Philippine National Oil Co., P306 million.

Cebu Ports Authority turned in P101 million; Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., P53 million; Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority, P47 million, and Philippine Retirement Authority, P38 million.

Under their respective charters, GOCCs and GFIs are required to remit at least 50 percent of their income to the national government as dividends.

Last year, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves made a call on losing state-owned firms to improve their financial performance to lessen their dependence on the national government. He also called on earning GOCCs and GFIs to increase their dividend contributions to help strengthen the country's fiscal position.

The Department of Finance is working on the establishment of a scorecard system for the evaluation of the performance of GOCCs and GFIs in fulfilling their mandates and generating their revenues.

Under the planned system, state-owned firms that will perform well may be given incentives. Those that will fail to meet their objectives may face "rationalization."

National Treasurer Omar Cruz earlier said his office had tightened its monitoring of GOCCs and GFIs to increase dividend collection.

In the first eight months of the year, the BTr collected P46.5 billion worth of revenues. Aside from dividends, BTr revenues also come from earnings from its investments in foreign-denominated securities.

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Ro-Ro system cuts transport cost by 45%—Yap

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF (RO-RO) SYSTEM in the so-called western nautical highway or Western Seaboard has cut transportation costs in the service areas by 45 percent and triggered tourism and commercial growth in the surrounding areas, according to a report by Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap, who also chairs the government's Task Force on Infrastructure Monitoring.

The government established the Batangas-Calapan, Roxas-Caticlan, Iloilo-Bacolod and Dumaguete-Dapitan Ro-Ro facilities in the Western Seaboard in 2003. A copy of the report showed that two years after the facilities were opened, the number of shipping operators servicing the covered routes increased. It said only the Batangas-Calapan route still had one operator as of last year.

Citing a 2006 study on the economic impact of the Ro-Ro system, Yap's report showed that the project had reduced transport cost by 45 percent. Passenger fares, it added, went down by 32 percent. This was because people used to have no choice but to ride fast crafts between provinces and the fare was about P220 per person. Ro-Ro fares, meanwhile, averaged at only P150, resulting in average savings of P70 or 32 percent of the old fare.

The largest savings were seen in the shipment of motorcycles from Metro Manila to the provinces. A shipment of 50 motorcycles used to cost P95,000 via traditional shipping but deliveries using the Ro-Ro system cost only P50,000 or 47 percent cheaper.

Data from the Department of Tourism showed that the Ro-Ro system had also boosted domestic tourism. Dumaguete recorded an 8-percent jump in tourist arrivals from 136,000 in 2003 to 147,000 in 2005. Bacolod posted an 11-percent increase from 205,000 arrivals in 2003 to 228,000 in 2005, while Caticlan saw a 47-percent hike from 215,000 to 380,000. Iloilo recorded a 77-percent jump in arrivals in the same 2-year period from 339,000 to 499,000.

The biggest surge was seen in Dapitan, where very few tourists went prior to the introduction of the Ro-Ro system. The city welcomed 8,000 tourists in 2004, which grew to 35,000 in 2005—a 310-percent increase.

The report also noted increased number of ship calls, as well as the mushrooming of Internet cafes, small hotels, eateries, bus operators, beach resorts and other business establishments in areas surrounding the Ro-Ro ports.

As for the continued expansion of the Ro-Ro routes, Yap said in a statement that many small routes would be attached to the Western Seaboard and the Marcos-era Eastern Seaboard. A central highway is also in the works, and eventually the three will be cross-linked to further facilitate travel all over the country.

SEC urged to issue dealer's license to CAP

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A MAKATI REGIONAL TRIAL COURT JUDGE has urged the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to issue a dealer's license to College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) and to impose certain conditions that the company should meet to be able to keep its license, said INQUIRER sources who were present at a closed door court meeting on Tuesday.

This, however, was opposed by Sen. Manuel A. Roxas II who said in a statement that such a move could create bigger problems for future plan holders.

CAP's dealer's license was suspended in 2004.

SEC lawyers present at the closed door meeting were requested by Branch 149 Judge Cesar Untalan to solicit feedback from the commission en banc about the matter when the commissioners meet today.

The conditions have yet to be set and these would also depend on whether the commission en banc would agree to the court's suggestion.

In a related development, CAP said in reaction to an INQUIRER story that the SEC's comments on its rehabilitation plan were hinged on a liquidation scenario.

"Under the SEC's assumption, which was based on the liquidation of the company, each plan holder will get only P0.17 per P1.00. Under CAP's rehabilitation scenario, each plan holder will get his P1.00 plus tuition payments," CAP said.

The pre-need company also said the valuation of its assets was not bloated.

"The projection represents the company's net share in the redevelopment of the assets, as indicated in the rehabilitation plan," the company said. It said it had redevelopment plans for its buildings in Cebu, Davao, Cubao, Iloilo, Bacolod, Paranaque and Butuan.

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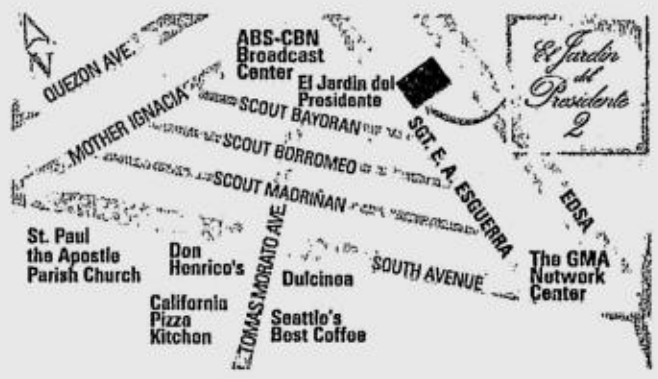

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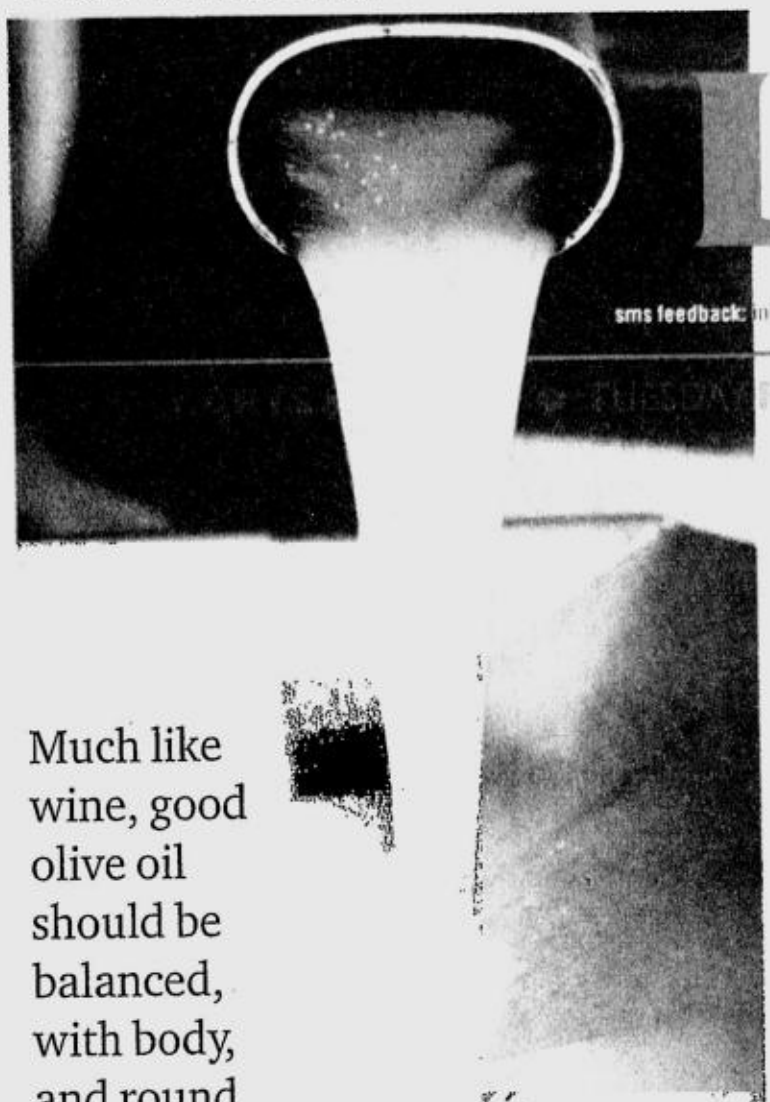


Much like wine, good olive oil should be balanced, with body, and round in flavor

Striking oil

WITH OLIVE OIL, FOOD tastes better, we all agree, but there are nagging questions like... Are there substitutes? And why is it so expensive?

Insofar as substitutes are concerned, any oil can be used in its place but, by doing so, you rob the dish of the very essence that only good olive oil brings—its character, its flavor.

Why is it expensive? Simply put, quality comes at a price and, unfortunately, apart from love, laughter, peace, joy and happiness, many of the best things in life aren't free, especially when we speak of premium ingredients!

EXTRA virgin olive oil is high in monounsaturated fatty acids, vitamin E, natural antioxidants and other nutrients; (top right) vegetable chips cooked in Spanish olive oil

Oily facts

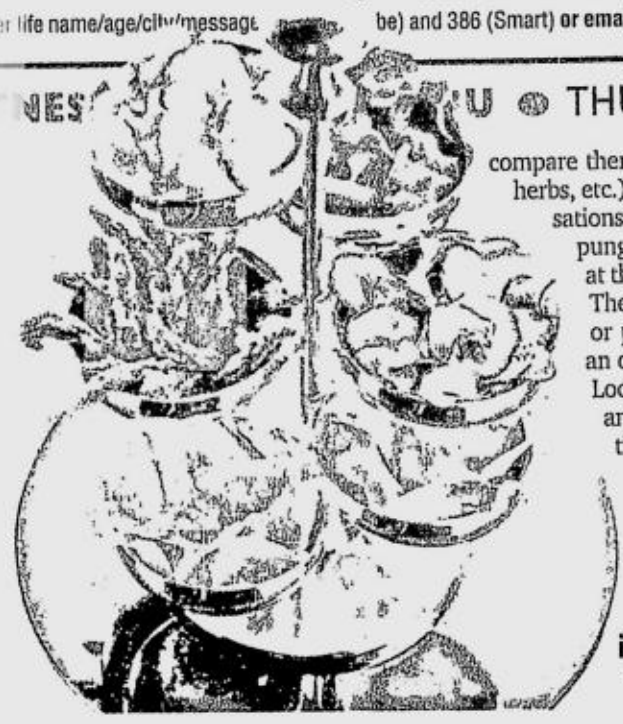
Here are some interesting olive oil facts that I gathered with the help of the Spanish Embassy, the Spanish Economic and Commercial Office, Oleo Toledo, Asoliva and the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade. For all the help and for the pretty photos as well, *muchisimas gracias*!

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

- Olive oil is the juice of the olive.
- It is the only oil commonly found in the market that is extracted from a fresh fruit, without the use of solvents.
- It is considered one of the healthiest oils, being high in monounsaturated fatty acids, vitamin E, natural antioxidants and other nutrients.
- Growth of the olive tree is slow. The first fruit crop comes 5-10 years after planting and reaches maturity only after 20 years. Maximum yield comes between the age of 35-150, after which the yield becomes irregular.
- Flowering starts in the spring and, out of the many flowers, only 1-3 percent will turn into olives. The fruit gradually changes color from light green to reddish purple then black in a process called *envero*, during which the oil content increases.
- It takes 4-5 kilos of olives to make a liter of oil. Harvest begins late autumn or early winter.
- Spain is the largest producer/exporter of olive oil where over 260 olive varieties grow. Thus the wide range of flavors and aromas of Spanish oils. Recently, organic cultivation has become popular.
- When the Arabs came to Spain, they promoted the cultivation and perfected the extraction of oil. The Spanish word *aceite* comes from the Arabic word *al-zait*, meaning olive juice.
- The aromas, flavors and colors of olive oil vary depending on the olive varieties and the conditions of cultivation.
- In Spain and in Europe, olive oil tasting has become a craze. In fact, the same tasting points for wine are used for olive oil.
- Much like wine, good olive oil should be balanced, with body, round in flavor that develops in the mouth, to which the terms fruity, mature, pungent, bitter, etc. also apply.
- Tasting is necessary to appreciate the character and personality of an olive oil. A single olive tree may produce different types of oil depending on ripeness, weather conditions for the year, etc. The same variety may also produce different oils depending on soil conditions, microclimate and altitude.
- Tasters use blue tinted glasses to mask the color as color does not reflect quality. A little is poured onto the tip of the tongue then gradually moved around the palate, then down the throat. In between olive oil tastings, pieces of apples or bread are eaten to cleanse the palate.
- The aroma of olive oil is at best when heated slightly. In tasting sessions, the glass is heated and the taster breathes in the essences to compare them with other plants (fruits, grass, herbs, etc.) A few drops of it will release sensations of sweetness, acidity, bitterness, pungency. The acid hints are detected at the center of the tongue and palate. The back of the mouth for bitterness or pungency. (If you haven't been to an olive oil seminar, you must attend! Locally, my culinary mom, the one and only Beth Romualdez, conducts them!)

To be continued next week—olive oil classifications, health benefits, other interesting facts and more recipes!



Vegetable Chips in Spanish Olive Oil

With a knife or a mandolin, slice vegetables thinly (carrots, potatoes, zucchini, eggplants, beets, artichokes, sweet potatoes) or use leafy greens such as spinach, *pechay* leaves. You could even fry basil leaves.

Heat olive oil to 350°F, deep fry vegetables, drain on paper towels, season with salt if you wish, serve immediately. For leafy greens, oil temperature must be 300°F.

Here's my new class schedule: Sept. 22—Royal Indian Cuisine 2 (all new); Sept. 23—Frappucinos and Bars (all new) as well as Manang Rocks for Christmas (Holiday Cooking Classes For Household Cooks/Helpers); Entertaining for the Holidays (The Catering Series—for caterers and those who love to entertain); Things To Make, Give or Sell this Christmas. Call 9289296/6335162.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

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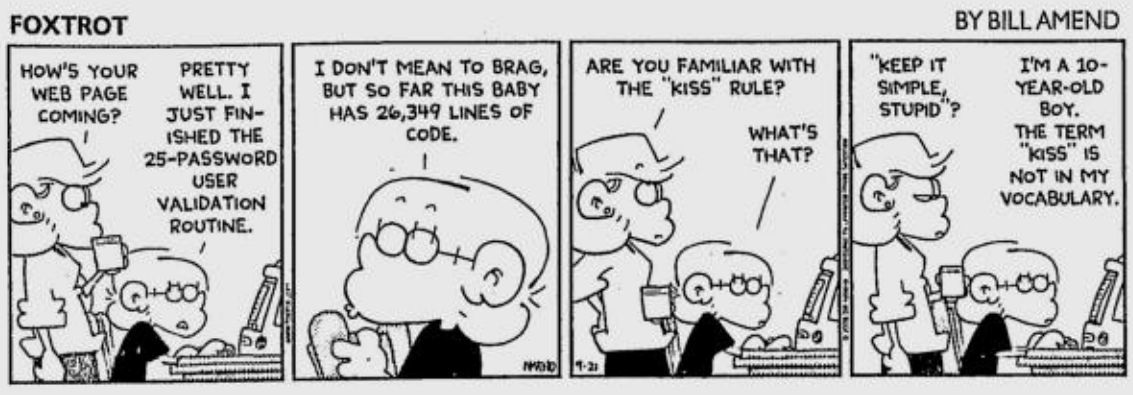
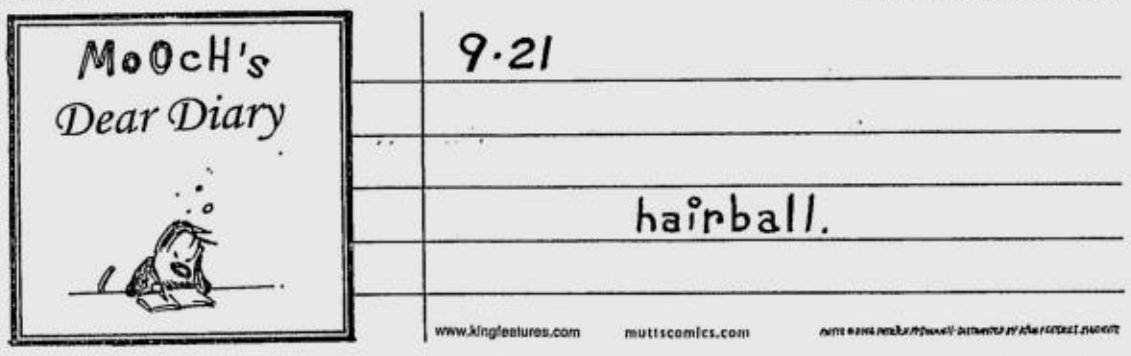


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

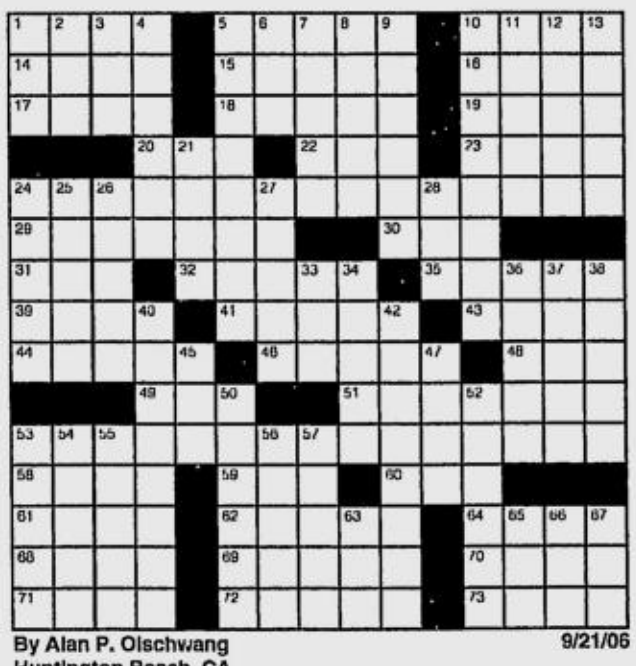
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

9/21/06

ACROSS
1 Start of Jamie Lee Curtis quip
5 Flotilla units
10 Indian nanny
14 Confess
15 Bicycle part
16 Bathe
17 Info
18 Sermonize
19 Bread buy
20 "Car Talk" broadcaster
22 Make haste
23 Formerly, formerly
24 Part 2 of quip
29 Serialized segment
30 __ Paulo, Brazil
31 PC key
32 Frasier Crane's brother
35 Rich kid in "Nancy"
39 Caresses
41 Part 3 of quip
43 Part of a hammerhead
44 Assert
46 Used a hand signal
48 Bern's river
49 Want __
51 Diplomatic office
53 Part 4 of quip
58 NYC theatrical award
59 Fastener
60 Ed.'s work pile
61 Grass stalk
62 In a vertical line
64 Follow orders
68 Palm type
69 Unworldly
70 Latvian capital
71 Portent
72 Dismal
73 End of quip

DOWN
1 June celebrant
2 Reproductive cells
3 "__ as a Stranger"
4 Banjo sounds
5 Infrequent
6 That girl
7 Pocatello's place
8 Barbecue's place
9 Makes smooth
10 Lifter's shout
11 New Zealand native
12 Nautical command
13 Judges weight by lifting
21 Menial worker
24 Army vehicles
25 Surprise win
26 Judgments
27 Subordinate to
28 Prohibit
33 Gabor sister
34 Cut off
36 Smallest amount
37 Canine tether
38 Way to have corned beef
40 Remained
42 Call to mind
45 Old name for Tokyo
47 Corporate A.K.A.s
50 Had dinner
52 Accumulate, as gas on liquid surface
53 Body's trunk
54 Construction piece
55 Feudal lord
56 More despicable
57 Harden
63 Hamm or Farrow
65 Brief life story
66 Psyche division
67 Tibetan beast

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

I	R	S	■	C	O	M	E	T	■	A	C	C	R	A
N	E	T	■	A	B	A	S	E	■	G	O	R	E	D
C	L	E	A	N	O	U	T	T	H	E	S	A	F	E
H	A	L	I	D	E	■	■	R	U	N	I	C	■	■
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9/21/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a strong sense of aesthetics; you certainly appreciate beauty. Despite your offhand, sometimes cavalier, witty quality—you're very serious about life. You're also modern and very up-to-date. You take great pride in your work. Mystery and secrets invariably intrigue you. Your year ahead is full of exciting new beginnings. Be brave about testing new paths.
Birthdate of: Bill Murray, actor/comedian; Steven King, writer; Leonard Cohen, author/poet/songwriter.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might feel more tired in the next four weeks. Try to get more rest. Your energy is at its lowest ebb that it can be for the entire year. Focus on friends and partners.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have a strong desire now to get better organized. Not only do you have the desire, you have the energy! By all means, act while this energy helps you. Make hay while the sun shines.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Love affairs, romance, vacations, parties and creative projects are your primary focus for the next 4-6 weeks. Enjoy playful activities with children.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Now your attention turns to home, family and real estate more than usual. Interaction with parents and family members also becomes more important.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): In the next six weeks, the tempo of your daily activities will accelerate. Short trips, increased reading, writing and studying, plus buying and selling consume more of your time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You have an increasing interest in your cash flow. You want to earn more money because you're spending more. At a deeper level, however, you want to know what really matters in life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): As the Sun now moves into your sign, your strength increases. In the next four weeks, it's your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You need rest and peace and quiet in solitude during the month ahead. Work alone or behind the scenes if you can. Lie low and keep to yourself. (Easy does it.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your popularity is on the rise. Meet with friends and groups. Talk to others about your hopes and dreams for the future. Their feedback will be helpful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with parents, bosses and VIPs are significant now. Talk to people about your life's direction. Increased responsibilities will likely come your way. Accept them

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): All Aquarians are born 50 years ahead of their time. Explore new avenues of thinking in the next few weeks. Learn something new!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your feelings are very intense now. Your passions about something or someone are aroused. You care very much about something important to you.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	8							6
3	6	9					4	
			7			5		
			5			3		
	2			4			8	
		6			2			
		2			9			
	7					1	2	8
5							3	

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Difficulty Level ★★★

9/21

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	1	6	7	5	2	9	4	8
4	5	8	3	9	6	7	1	2
9	7	2	8	1	4	3	5	6
7	8	1	2	3	9	4	6	5
5	2	3	4	6	1	8	9	7
6	9	4	5	8	7	2	3	1
8	3	9	6	7	5	1	2	4
2	6	7	1	4	3	5	8	9
1	4	5	9	2	8	6	7	3

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Difficulty Level ★★★

CHEF Rocco seasons the chicken cutlets with pepper.

THE CHEF dredges the chicken in flour.

Flavor imaggictaun

SHRIMP and Noodle Sate Sauce

CHICKEN with Lemon, Capers and Red Onions

Text by Miguel G. Escaño
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

CELEBRITY CHEF ROCCO DiSpirito makes magic in the kitchen with an apron for a wizard's robe and a spatula for a magic wand.

In less than five minutes, he conjures culinary masterpieces from thin air and serves a feast fit for royalty.

With his latest book, "Rocco's 5-Minute Flavor," DiSpirito removes his magician's mask and shares the secrets of his culinary wizardry. "Anyone can produce flavorful dishes in five minutes or less," he says. "All you need are the right kitchen tools and the right ingredients."

Brought here by the Ayala Malls, he performed his magic in cooking demos at Greenbelt 3, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu before a spellbound audience consisting mostly of women.

The "sexiest chef alive" quipped that not only were the recipes quick and easy to do, "You'll look good while doing [them]."

Starting young

DiSpirito learned to savor taste at an early age. His mother had a full-time job as a public school lunch lady but she made sure to be home to prepare dinner for her family every evening.

DiSpirito writes in the introduction to his new book, "With my family, everyone was welcome and there was always food for one more at our table."

He also learned to appreciate flavors from his neighbors who came from all over the world and shared the dishes of their homelands with the young DiSpirito.

Trained at the Culinary Institute of America and Boston University, he also immersed himself in French food and wine at the prestigious Jardin de Cygne restaurant in Paris.

Featured on the cover of Gourmet magazine, he was called the "Flavor Guy," the chef who could bring flavors together as no one could. He soon starred in a popular reality television show, "The Restaurant," that chronicled his experience as he opened a New York restaurant.

Hailed as Food & Wine's Best New Chef in 1999 and Gourmet magazine's America's Exciting Young Chef in 2000, DiSpirito is known for his inventive style of fusion cooking: combining simple Asian ingredients with traditional French techniques.

Five-minute flavor

"The key to flavor is your palate," says DiSpirito. "Without it, how do you know if anything tastes or will taste good?"

For his latest book, DiSpirito weaned himself away from the high-tech equipment in restaurant kitchens. How did he compensate? "The key is high heat," DiSpirito says. "You have to cook these dishes with high heat."

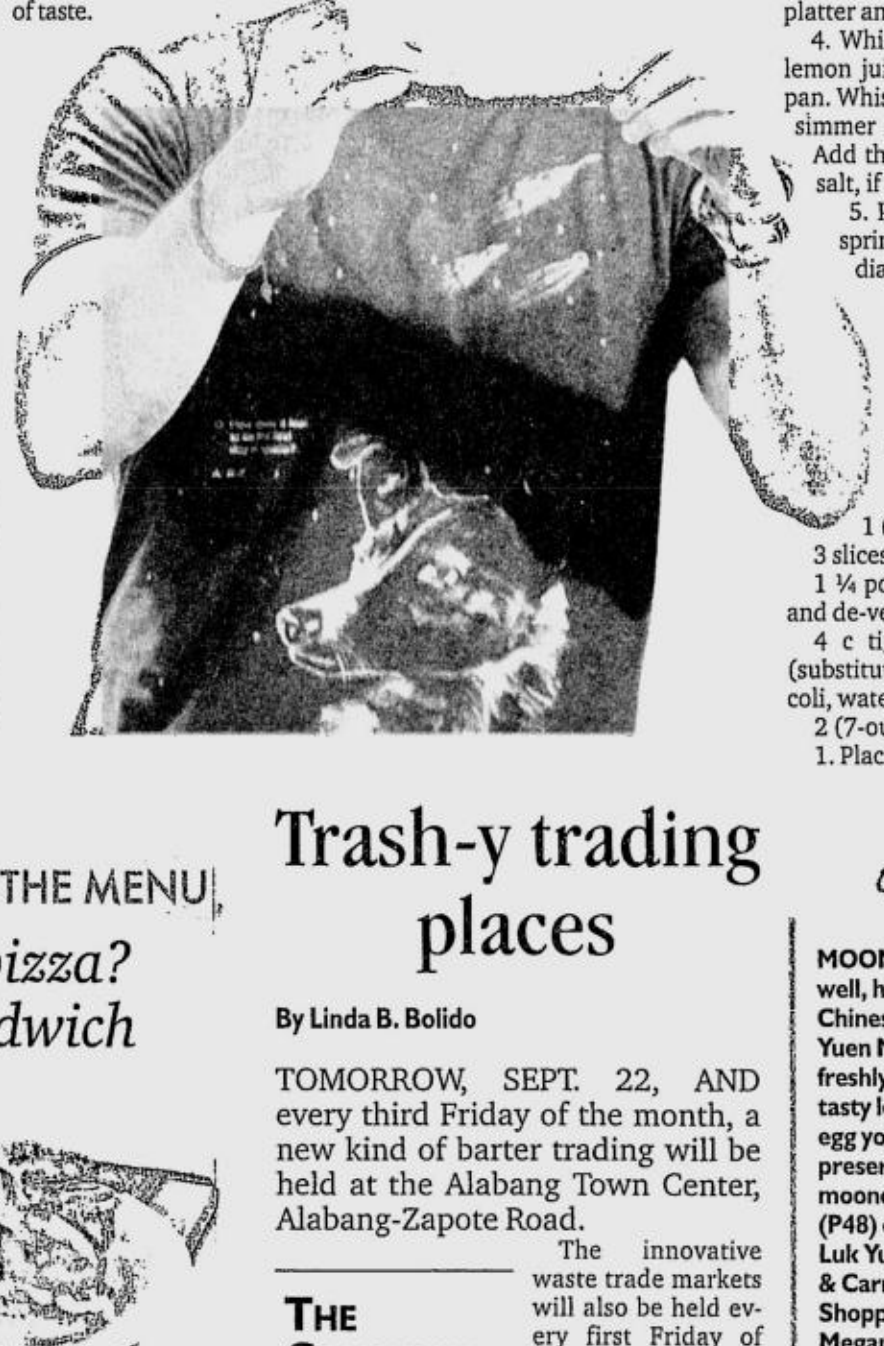
The chef offers another reason cooking should interest more people. "Food can be seductive because when you give yourself, women find it very compelling," he says.

For a romantic meal, he suggests that a man should cook risotto, which involves stirring rice for nearly an hour. "By that time, she'll fall in love with you," he jokes.

DiSpirito also shares a sauce recipe guaranteed to warm hearts, aside from doing wonders for any dish, especially fish.

The recipe: Mix 1/3 *miso* paste, 1/3 orange juice, and 1/3 marmalade mix. Pour over any dish, hot or cold, and *voila*, you get a rainbow of taste.

Chef Rocco DiSpirito shows cooking can leave plenty of time for romance



Recipes

(From "Rocco's 5-Minute Flavor")

Chicken with Lemon, Capers and Red Onions

Serves 4

Basic ingredients:

12 tbsp (1½ sticks) butter, at room temperature

Flour for dredging

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Main ingredients:

2 eggs

4 thin chicken cutlets (about 5 ounces each)

½ c lemon juice

2 ounces capers, chopped

½ c diced red onion

Directions:

1. Heat 4 tbsp of the butter in a large sauté pan over medium-low heat until hot and lightly foaming but not brown.

2. Meanwhile, spread the flour on a plate and season with salt and pepper.

Beat the eggs in a shallow dish. Dredge the chicken in the flour and then dip in the eggs to coat.

3. Add the chicken to the hot butter and cook, turning once, until light golden brown on both sides and cooked through about 2 minutes per side. Transfer the chicken to a platter and season with salt and pepper.

4. While the chicken is cooking, bring the lemon juice to a boil in another large sauté pan. Whisk in the remaining 8 tbsp butter and simmer until the sauce is slightly reduced. Add the capers and season the sauce with salt, if necessary, and pepper.

5. Pour the sauce over the chicken and sprinkle with the red onion. Serve immediately.

Shrimp and Noodle Sate Sauce

Serves 4

Basic ingredients:

¼ c corn oil

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

½ c water

Main ingredients:

1 (8-ounce) package thin rice noodles

3 slices bacon, cut crosswise into thin strips

1 ¼ pounds shrimp (36-40 count), peeled and de-veined

4 c tightly packed bite-size pieces kale (substitutes: mustard greens, Chinese broccoli, water spinach or pea shoots)

2 (7-ounce) jars Thai peanut sauce

1. Place the rice noodles in a large bowl and cover with warm water. Soak for 30 minutes. Drain.

2. Heat the oil in a large sauté pan until hot but not smoking. Add the bacon and cook, stirring frequently, until it begins to brown.

3. Season the shrimp with salt and pepper and add to the pan. After about 1 minute, stir the shrimp and add the kale. Stir, cover and cook until the kale begins to wilt. Add the rice noodles, cover, and cook until tender.

4. Add the sate sauce and water and bring to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper if necessary, and toss to evenly coat all the noodles. Serve hot.

Stuffed Pork Chops with Boursin and Collards

Serves 4

Basic ingredients:

½ c plus 2 tbsp canola oil

Flour for dredging

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Main ingredients:

3 eggs

1 ½ c dried bread crumbs

1 (5.2-ounce) package Boursin cheese, slightly softened

8 thin center-cut boneless pork loin chops (just under 1 ¼ pounds total)

12 ounces trimmed collard greens (substitutes: mustard greens, Chinese broccoli, water spinach or pea shoots)

1. Pour ½ c of the oil into one large sauté pan, pour the remaining 2 tbsp into another large sauté pan, and heat until hot. (Turn down the heat under the second pan if the oil begins to smoke, then turn it up again before adding the greens.)

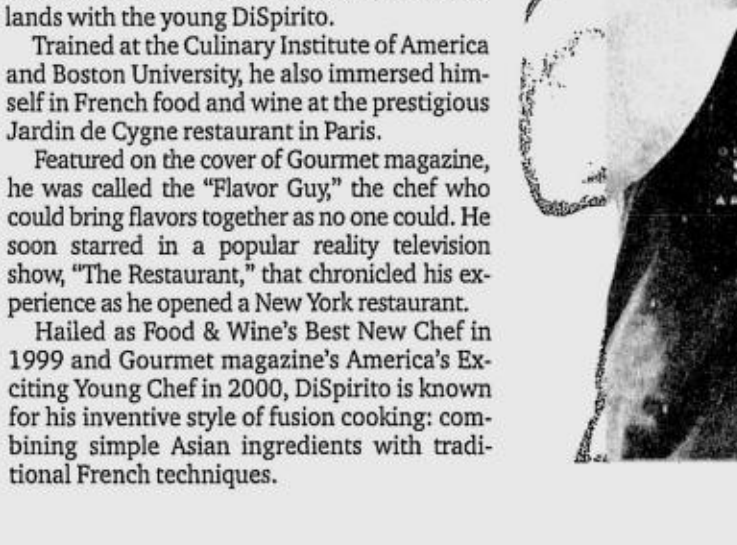
2. Meanwhile, spread the flour on a plate and season with salt and pepper. Beat the eggs in a shallow bowl. Spread bread crumbs on another plate.

3. Spread one-quarter of the Boursin evenly on each of the pork chops. Top each with another pork chop and press down firmly. Dredge the chops in the flour, dip in the eggs, and then dredge in the bread crumbs. Place the chops in the pan with ½ c oil. Cook until golden brown on the first side, about 2 ½ minutes. Flip the chops and cook for another 2 ½ minutes, or until cooked through.

4. Meanwhile, add the collard greens to the second pan and season with salt and pepper. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring constantly, until the greens are wilted and tender but not mushy. Remove the pork chops from the pan and drain. Serve each chop with a pile of collards alongside.

ON THE MENU

Tired of pizza? Try a sandwich



WHY IS A PIZZA KITCHEN also dishing out sandwiches? Well, if it's the California Pizza Kitchen, it's not just for variety but also for genius use of its modern oven. CPK's sandwiches are freshly baked and served straight out of the oven with Schezuan Slaw on the side.

The CPK Grilled Vegetarian Sandwich is packed with grilled Portobello mushrooms, grilled red and yellow peppers with melted Fontina and Mozzarella cheeses, and homemade sun-dried tomato aioli.

The CPK Grilled Rosemary Chicken Sandwich is filled with grilled chicken breast marinated in aromatic rosemary and white wine.

The CPK Grilled Chicken Caesar Sandwich is a slice of grilled chicken marinated in rosemary and white wine, served with fresh Romaine lettuce leaves, sliced Roma tomatoes and, of course, Caesar dressing.

The CPK Tuna Sandwich has Albacore tuna chilled in a salad along with sweet white onions, Granny Smith apples, and Jicama, spiced up with a zesty herb-mustard Parmesan vinaigrette.

These "fab four" are available at these CPK branches: Glorietta 3, Ayala Center; Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center; 2/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Bellagio Square, Tomas Morato; and Promenade Greenhills.

Trash-y trading places

By Linda B. Bolido

TOMORROW, SEPT. 22, AND every third Friday of the month, a new kind of barter trading will be held at the Alabang Town Center, Alabang-Zapote Road.

THE CONSUMER

The innovative waste trade markets will also be held every first Friday of the month at the Gold Crest Car Park, Ayala Center, Arnaiz Avenue, Makati, City.

What do the waste markets offer?

You can trade scrap paper for new (office/mimeo), as well as ink cartridges for new. You can sell your electronic waste (junk computers) and old/broken appliances, and even used lead acid batteries.

The markets will also let you redeem for cash PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic bottles and other plastics, aluminum/tin cans, scrap glass.

There will also be drop-off points for junk cell phones/cell phone batteries/styrofoam.

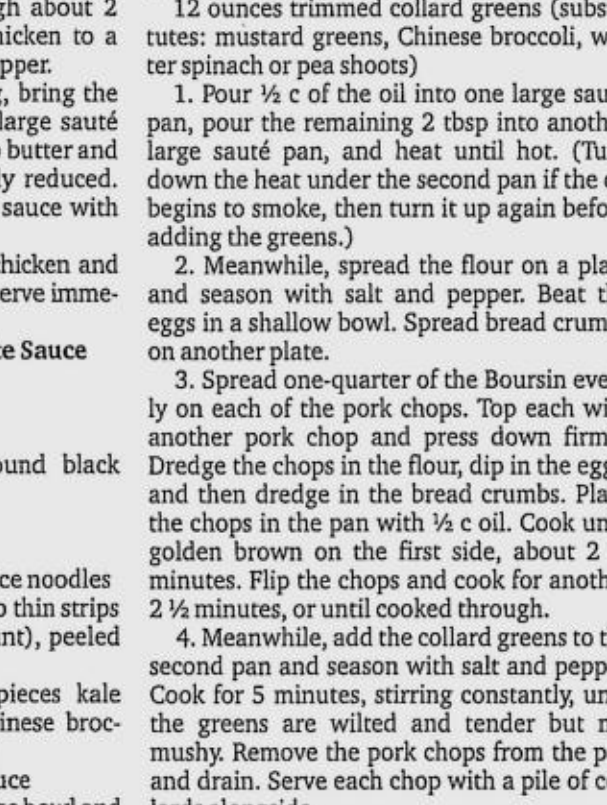
The markets want to make recycling convenient and accessible, especially for people who visit shopping areas.

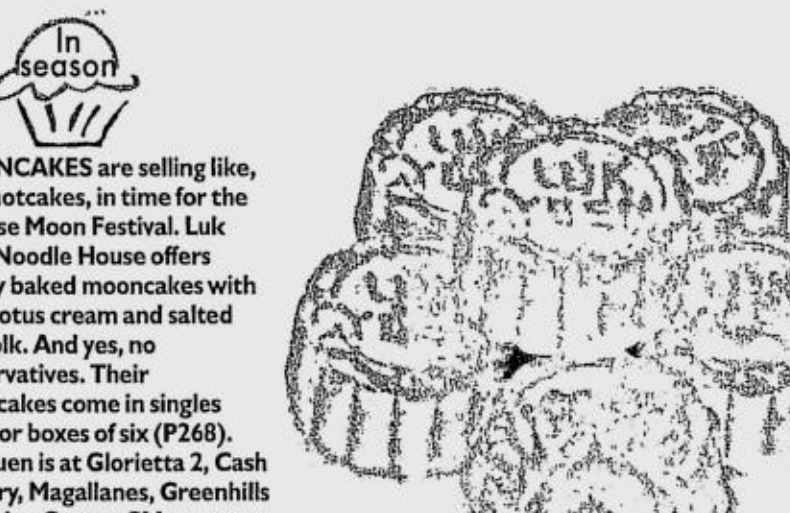
Contact Nancy Pilien at the Philippine Business for the Environment, 6352650.

Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph —Editor

In season

MOONCAKES are selling like, well, hotcakes, in time for the Chinese Moon Festival. Luk Yuen Noodle House offers freshly baked mooncakes with tasty lotus cream and salted egg yolk. And yes, no preservatives. Their mooncakes come in singles (P48) or boxes of six (P268). Luk Yuen is at Glorietta 2, Cash & Carry, Magallanes, Greenhills Shopping Center, SM Megamall B and Makati Supermart Alabang.





HENY SISON
CULINARY SCHOOL

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

THE ESSENTIAL BAKING & PASTRY SERIES. This 26 – day hands-on class will cover the basics of pastry, desserts, bread baking as well as cake decorating. It is suitable for those seeking an entry-level position in pastry shop, hotel or restaurants. Classes begin on **October 5 – December 22, 2006.** Classes are held every **Thursdays & Fridays** from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit.

For more information call **726-5316 or 412 7792** and ask Rita or Jenny

October 2(Monday)9:000 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.(classroom A) **BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison**"Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. **P1,500**

October 2(Monday)2:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A)**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison** "Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar. **P1,500**

October 2(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! LET'S BOTTLE UP ! by: Chef Juan Carlo Estagle**, one of our school's home-grown chefs who has proven his mettle as Executive Chef of Mezze Restaurant and Bar at Greenbelt 2, pastry consultant of Bakeshops and chef consultant to other multinational food brands. He is one of the resident chefs of IBC 13's A Taste of Life with Heny Sison. Putting up food for future enjoyment is a decidedly old-fashioned pursuit. Yet more and more cooks today are rediscovering it and even making a business out of it. In this course, you'll learn everything you need to know to bottle and preserve food efficiently, safely, beautifully; and of course; with delicious results. The outcome is sure to be a rainbow of jars filled with Dalandan Marmalade, Ginger Marmalade, Bacalao Filipino, Tawilis Sardines, Tuyo Pasta Salsa, Tomato Pasta Salsa, and even pickled onions and quail eggs. **P1,500**

October 3(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**COFFEE CLASS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio-Sandoval**, owner of Goodies N' Sweet Bakeshop & C'est Si Bon, Dean's list graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy" If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Make fun toppings & garnishes & master the art of coffee making. **Recipes:** Caffé Latte, Caffé Mocha, Caffé Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato & Espresso Con Panna, Almond Coffee Freeze, Icy Rum Coffee Cream, Toffee Coffee, Mudslide Malt, Mocha Rumba, Rocky Road and more! **P3,000**

October 3(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom B)**JAPANESE COOKING I (All Time Favorite Japanese Recipes)by: Chef Koichi Kondo**, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants"Miso Soup, Tempura, Nimono, Yakimono, California Maki, Chilled Soba, Noodles with Nori, Skewered Dumplings with Brown Sauce. **P1,700**

October 4(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**THE MANY WAYS TO COOK CHICKEN by: Chef Aileen Anastacio-Sandoval** "Citrus-Ginger Grilled Chicken, Chicken Cacciatore, Chicken Inasal, Thai Style Grilled Chicken, Roasted Chicken w/ Lemon Garlic & Rosemary, Buffalo Wings & Chicken Bulgogi. **P1,800**

October 4(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom B)**NEW CLASS ! OCTOBER"FEAST" by: Chef Vivian Syyap**, Private Chef/Caterer, Associates in Occupational Studies, Culinary Arts, with honors. The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York. "Pay homage to the world's most popular and anticipated event of the year —Octoberfest. Learn to create your own Bavarian feast of classic delectable dishes that will surely satisfy your gastronomic cravings and spirit of merry-making. Featuring *Cucumber and Sour Cream Salad; German Potato Salad, home-made Bratz & Fraut Sandwiches (Bratwurst & Sauerkraut cooked in Beer); Roast Pork Knuckles; and classic Black Forest Cake.* **P2,000**

October 5(Thursday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**GOURMET BURGERS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio-Sandoval** Turkey Burgers, Beef Burgers, Southwestern Chicken Burger, Healthy Veggie, Italian Style Burgers, Pork Burgers, Greek Style Burgers and Fish Burgers. **P1,800**

October 6(Friday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! ITALIAN PIZZA WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison**Italian Pizza Dough, Tomato Sauce Base, White Sauce Base **Recipes:** Pizza Margherita, Pizza alle Acciughe, Pizza al Tonno, Pizza Verde, Pizza Biana, Pizza Ai Quattro Formaggi **Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,000**

October 7(Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m (classroom A)**HEALTHY GOURMET - SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE 1 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje**, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet)" This class is suitable for all people who want to be able to cook healthy dishes, lose weight considerably and people with health concerns such as diabetes, high blood pressure and other dietary restrictions. The class will guide you through the principles of healthy nutrition, South Beach Diet phase 1 "Swiss Pinoy Style", which uses locally available ingredients. **Complete menu plan and recipes for 14 days of Phase 1. P1,500 plus P700 recipe booklet for Phase 1**

October 7(Saturday)1:00 – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B)**HEALTHY GOURMET – SOUTH BEACH DIET COMBO CLASS PHASE 2 and 3by: Jacqueline H. Alleje** "This class is suitable for all people who want to learn how to cook healthy dishes, deepen their knowledge of nutrition and weight control, as well as people with health concerns, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and other dietary restrictions. This class teaches wholesome recipes which reintroduce carbohydrates with complete recipe booklets for phase 2 and 3 of the South Beach Diet. **P1,500 plus P700 per recipe booklet**

October 9(Monday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! BROWNIE COLLECTION by: Heny Sison** "To Die For Chocolate Brownie, Chocolate Amaretto Brownie, White Chocolate Macadamia Brownie, Denise Favorite Brownie, Carmela's Chocolate Strawberry Brownie. **P1,500**

October 9(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! SAUSAGE WORKSHOP(Charcuterie Basics) by: Chef Vivian Syyap** "Learn the art of curing, brining, and basic sausage-making. Featuring *Corned Beef, Breakfast Sausage, Hot & Sweet Italian Sausages, German Bratwurst, and Frankfurter or Bologna.* **P2,000**

October 10(Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! HEALTHY GOURMET: HOME MADE PASTA AND SALAD WORKSHOP by: Jacqueline H. Alleje** Pasta can be a good source of carbohydrates, don't have to be fattening and can make delicious meals. This class teaches how to do whole wheat pasta, stuffed pasta and sauces that range from healthy budget meals to regal fiests. The dishes contain vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes. Fettuccini with home made Tomato Sauce variations, Vegetarian Delight, Calamari, Shrimp with Spinach, Ricotta Spinach and Squash Mushroom Ravioli, Tomato-Mint Salad, Cardamon Balsamico Summer Salad with Fresh Asparagus Mint or Dill Raita Cucumber Salad, Cucumber Salad with Peanuts. **P2,500**

October 10(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (classroom B)**NEW CLASS ! FILIPINO CHRISTMAS FEAST by: Chef Vicki Villanueva,** from Stars & Bizu, let Chef Vicki share with you her wealth of knowledge and experience of patisseries and restaurant concepts, skills, techniques & operations.Capture the spirit of the season. Bond with the Balikbayan family members and friends with authentic Filipino dishes. Sure to captivate their palate and hearts. New preparation, cooking techniques and chef's secrets.**Recipes Include:** My Mom's Kare Kare, Steamed Lapu-Lapu with mayo, Lumpiang Ubod with Crepe and Sauce, Chicken Pastel, Classic Bibingka, Pancit Puti, Sago at Gulaman, and Cochinillo, Lunch is included. **P2,950**

October 11(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **THANKSGIVING DINNER by: Chef Aileen Anastacio-Sandoval** "Smoked Salmon Tartlets, Arugula & Mixed Greens with Goat Cheese, Candied Walnuts and Balsamic Vinaigrette, Roast Turkey with Gravy, Sausage and Apple Topping, Caramelized Yams, Cranberry Sauce and Pecan Pie. **P2,000**

October 11(Wednesday)4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom B)**SECRETS NO MORE! by: Heny Sison** "Decadent Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing & Caramel Sauce, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sanzrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake. **P3,000**

October 12(Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) **BAKED PASTAS by: Chef Aileen Anastacio Sandoval Recipes:** Beef Lasagna, Vegetable Lasagna, Chicken Macaroni, Baked Spaghetti and Baked Seafood Pasta. **P1,800**

October 13(Friday)9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! ALL ABOUT FRENCH MACAROONS by: Chef Vicki Villanueva** "Learn step-by-step preparation. A most sought after give away for Christmas and Weddings. **Flavors include:** Hazelnut, Chocolate with Ganache, Caramel, Lemon with Curd, Strawberry, Coffee and Ube with Halaya. **P 1,850**

October 13(Friday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A)**NEW CLASS ! CHRISTMAS GIVE AWAY ! (Features delicious and easy to make Bars and Cookies) by: Chef Vicki Villanueva**You are sure to enjoy baking them **Recipes Include:** The Best Chocolate Cookie, Black Forest Bars, Choconut Crumble Bars, No Bake Brownie, Flourless Brownie and Brownie Christmas Pudding. **P1,950**

October 14(Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A)**SWEET BUT SUGAR FREE CAKES by: Chef Jacqueline Ang Po,** Pastry Chef of Fleur de Lys Patisserie, dean's list graduate, California Culinary Academy "Classic Desserts like Strawberry Cheesecake, French Apple Pie Chocolate Cake, Banana Chocolate Muffin, Poppy Seed Cake, Carrot Bars w/ Cream Cheese Icing, Chocolate Walnut Cookies. For people who are conscious of sugar intake. **P1,500**

October 16- 20(Monday - Friday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **CAKE DECORATING COURSE III by: Heny Sison** "Learn how to create a tiered wedding cake, embellishing borders, side borders, string work, filligree, fancy flowers, color flow on cookies, sugar molding, lattice for the side of the cake and tiered cake ideas. The grand finale to course 3 is an impressive wedding cake. **Full participation. Prerequisite:** Cake Decorating Course 1 & 2. **This completes the Master Course in Cake Decorating. P8,000**

October 16(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B)**NEW CLASS! PANADERO PANADERIA! by: Nestor Magrimbao,** Baker, Ferna Corporation "Pacencia, Galletas, Otap, Biscocho, Mamon Tostado, Rosquillos **Demonstration w/ student participation. P1,500**

October 17(Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! PASTA WORKSHOP by: Chef Vicki Villanueva** "Learn how to make fresh pasta. Lessons include preparing the dough, cutting, cooking and pairing with sauces and storing." Each student will make their own Lasagna, Spinach Cannelloni, Meatballs, Bechamel and a Timballo (Pasta Beehive) show-stopping centerpiece for the Christmas buffet table, to take home. Students will have Tuna Pasta, Salad, Spaghetti Arrabiatta, Carbonara and a Marjolaine Torte. **Hands On Class. P 2,650**

October 18(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B)**NEW CLASS ! JAPANESE COOKING 4 by: Chef Koichi Kondo** "Curry Rice, Curry Udon, Curry Chahan, Chawan Mushi, Tori Karaage, Gyu Maki Fry, Agedashi Tofu, Aspara Gyu Maki, Mango Gyu Maki, Kani Fry and Kani Tempura **P2,500**

October 21(Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A) **NEW CLASS! A TASTE OF LIFE RECIPES: PART 1(Most Requested!) by: Heny Sison**" Barquillos, Pulvoron, Pastillas de Leche, Pastillas de Ube and Special Buko Pie. **P1,500**

October 23(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom A)**FLOWER SHOP FAVORITES by: Glenn Remorca,** floral designer "Make fresh floral arrangement for birthdays, baptismal, anniversaries in different styles and materials. Sourcing of materials included. **Demo and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P3,000**

October 23 - 25 (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! RETAIL BAKING 1 FEATURING YEAST BREAD by: Chef Vicki Villanueva** "This is a 3-day hands-on course designed specially to those who shall engage in bread making business. Those with existing business who want to upgrade. A 10% discount shall be given to those who shall attend the 3 day course. 5% discount for 2 days. **Day 1:** (1) Business Concepts; (2) Principles and Methods; (3) Production Options; (4) Equipments;(5) Kitchen Lay Out; (6) Ingredients; and (7) Math for Bakers (8) Costing and (9)Trends and Opportunities **Recipes:** Whole Wheat Pandesal, Oatmeal Loaf, Multigrain, Rye Bread and Raisin Loaf and Health Breads **P3,500**; **Day 2:** Olive Oil Based, Focaccia, Grissini, Ciabatta, Pizza, Tomato and Cheese Bread, garlic Sticks, Ham and Cheese Panini, White Dough, Sandwich Bread, Potato Bread and Soup Bowl **P2,500**; **Day 3:** Sweet Dough, Pandesal, Spanish Bread Cinnamon Roll, Ensaymada, Donut, Dinner Roll, Monggo Bread and Carrot Bread **P2,500**

October 24(Tuesday)9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A)**DIMSUM 3 by: Chef Katherine Sion,** restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer & an expert in Chinese cuisine. "Cantonese Machang, Chinese Gyoza, Beef Siomai, Fried Special Lumpia, Labanos Cake and Snow White Mochi. **P2,000**

October 24(Tuesday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A)**POPULAR CHINESE DISHES FOR CATERING 4 y: Chef Katherine Sion** "Spinach Soup, Fried Chicken Cutlet in Lemon Sauce, Fried Seafood Roll, Tenderloin Tips with Oyster Sauce, Mandarin Pork Spareribs, Fried Rice with Crabmeat and Candied Fruit Bananas with Sago. **P1,700**

October 25(Wednesday)10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**NEW CLASS ! CREATIVE ENTERTAINING by: Glenn Remorca** "Learn how to create your own table settings for the holiday season – open to homemaking caterers and event stylistic **P4,000**

October 26(Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B)**BARBECUE WITH SAUCES & DIPS: WORKSHOP by: Chef Sam de Leoz,** Food Consultant, Stylist, Photographer, Caterer, Food demonstrator and Culinary Competiton Events Consultant specializing in Basic & Classical Cookery; International & Asian Cuisine.Hands-on Barbecue Workshop providing innovative method prepared for small entrepreneur and caterer in order to pay the way for business opportunities and increase the revenue for the coming holiday season."Spicy Buffalo Wings w/ Blue Cheese Dip & Celery Stick, Famous Aling N2 Barbecue w/ Melitzanosalata (Spicy Over Gin Dip), Indonesian Mixed Satay: Mixed Beef & Lamb w/ Sambal Kacang (Peanut Sauce), Yakitori w/ Mango Black Bean Salsa, Grilled Seafood Medley: Prawns, Scallops & Fish Fillet w/ Mustard – Dill Vinaigrette, Grilled Sausage w/ Cilantro Aioli Dip, Amorgozo (Ampalaya) & Smoked Fish Morsels w/ Cottage Cheese & Garlic Crunch Dressing, Java Rice. **P2,000**

October 27(Friday)9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.(classroom A)**DIMSUM 4 by: Chef Katherine Sion** "Hakaw, Kutchay Dumpling, Crystal Scallop, Crisp Taro Puff, Ham Suy Kok and Triple Colored Cake. **P2,000**

October 27(Friday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A)**EASY FAST-FOOD RECIPES I by: Chef Katherine Sion** "Sweet & Sour Pork, Fried Crispy Chicken, Pinsec Frito, Beef Pares, Beef Curry Rice and Saute Kangkong with Bagoong Sauce. **P2,000**

October 28(Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A)**NEW CLASS ! BREAKFAST & BRUNCH COOKERY by: Chef Vivian Basco-Syyap,** " **Eggs:** Boiled (coddled, soft-boiled, medium-boiled, hard-boiled), Baked, Fried (sunny-side up, over easy, over medium, over hard), Poached – basic and variation; Scrambled – basic and variation and Omelet – French style or rolled; Frittata/Tortilla or Flat *Farmer's style*; Soufflèed **Pancakes,** Basic Pancake with variation; French Toast and Hash Brown Potatoes. **P1,500**

October 28(Saturday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! AFTERNOON TEA PARTY by: Chef Vivian Syyap** Planning a bridal or baby shower? Getting ready to fax the X'mas party frenzy? Entertaining your favorite "balikbayan" relative? The busy "BER" months, can be challenging to everybody's schedule. Why not opt for casual entertaining in the afternoon without the predictable "merienda" fare. **Featuring** *Warm Brie and Pesto; Tea Sandwiches; Egg Salad, Cucumber-Ranch, Smoked Salmon, Seafood Quiche; and Assorted Fresh Fruit Tartlets.* **P1,500**

October 30(Monday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**NEW CLASS ! CHEWY CHUNKY COOKIES by: Heny Sison** "Chocolate Chocolate y Chocolate Chip Cookies, Fudgie Wudgies, Dark Brown Choco Chips, Moist Chewy Oatmeal Cookies, Banana Nut Chocolate Chunkies and Baker's Best Snickerdoodles **P1,500**

October 30(Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom B)**KOREAN COOKING I: A WORKSHOP by: Chef Cecile Park,** owner of Silla Korean Restaurant & food consultant to various Korean restaurants in Metro Manila"Beef Bulgogi (Tenderloin & ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi, Pork Bulgogi, Chap Chae, Mi Yuk Guk (Soups: Seaweeds, Beef or Tahong), Bibimbap & Kalbi Jim. **P2,500**

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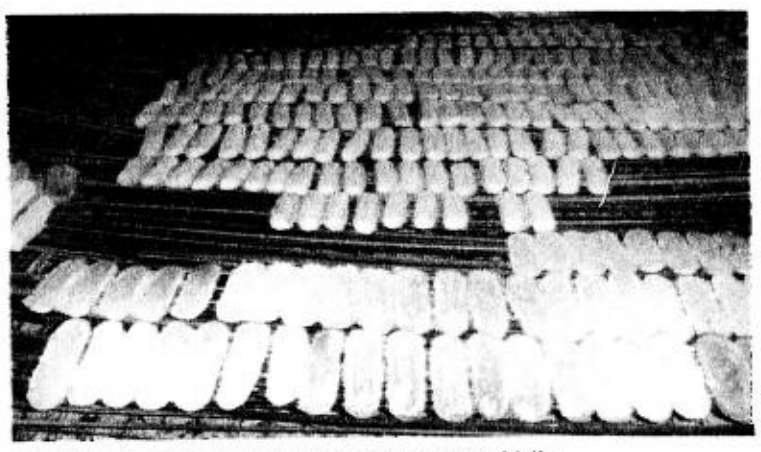

BROAS is toasted on a grill made of coconut midribs.

BOILED cow's legs called *balbacoa* at the Manga market

Old and new memories of Bohol

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

DISEMBARKING FROM THE FERRY that brought us to Bohol, my sisters and I were assaulted by offers to bring us to our destination, a resort on Panglao Island.

All the offers seemed unreasonable so we walked toward the parking area hoping to find a taxi driver who would charge only what was on his meter. We found one and got so much more. He proved to be a reliable guide throughout our stay.

Every time I mentioned places I had been to on a previous visit, *Mang* Nestor, our taxi guide, knew where to take us. And that was how I was able to retrace where my last trip took me, my food trail 10 years ago.

One destination was Manga market because that was where I had my first taste of Bohol *lechon* with only onion, pepper and salt to flavor it. We arrived near closing time and the *lechon* leftover wasn't attractive. We bought crunchy and well-cooked *chicharon* instead.

At one stall selling cooked food, we lingered at the *balbacoa*.

From what I remembered of that first visit, *balbacoa* is cow's feet boiled until skin and tendons are tender. Ginger is used to remove the odor and add flavor. A yellow coloring comes from a fruit that looks like a *sayote* (I can't recall the name).

Bohol-anon 'sinuglaw'

We bought some broiled meat that was then mixed with vinegar, the Bohol version of the *sinuglaw* but without the coconut milk. And then *tuyom*, sea urchin pieces collected in a bottle.

While one can get sea urchin (*uni*) in all Japanese restaurants, nothing can compare to my first taste of it. My hosts then, the Boisers of the now closed Jul Resort in Dauis, Panglao Island, asked if I wanted some.

I didn't know a diver was dispatched to harvest some by the beach. He returned with a basket of it, cracking open the shell for me to taste the meat.

Nothing can compare to that sweet, salty experience of newly harvested sea urchins, the firmer *tuyom* and the runny *suwake*.

With my bottle of *tuyom*, we headed to the next place I remembered, the barbecue place called "Sky's the Limit." But like the bottled *tuyom*, the barbecue plaza was a disappointment.

The sea urchin didn't live up to taste expectation and the plaza didn't live up to its name. The name was coined because the whole area was an open-air eating place, no roof, only the sky. But today you dine under huge tents made of plastic, probably to make the place available even during the rainy season. However, it makes the atmosphere inside muggy.

How sad that one can't recapture former pleasures. But I was proved wrong when *Mang* Nestor brought us to the *broas* maker.

Fascinating 'broas'

On my first visit, I was so fascinated by how the *broas* (lady fingers) was still baked in wood-fired clay ovens and then toasted on a grill made of coconut midribs arranged close together then set on top of embers.

Today, at Osang's in the town of Baclayon (where the oldest church is located), *broas* is still done that way. Owner Sylvia Fernandez Maristela was kind enough to let us witness the process, from the churning of the batter on mixers designed and made in Bohol, to the piping of the batter into rod-shaped pieces, baking in the oven and then toasting.

Again, nothing can compare to newly baked *broas*. We gladly ate some of the rejects, shaped too thin or too large. It's sweeter than the Quezon province version because sugar is sprinkled right after the baking.

In between piping the pieces, Sylvia told the story of the business. The original recipe was from the Rocha family of Tagbilaran who still have a shop in town. A great grandaunt, who used to work there, experimented with the formula and taught Sylvia's *Lola* Claring who started the *broas* business in 1928.

Sylvia took over in 1972 only because she was the only one in the family who was interested. She said none of her children seemed to be interested.

Osang's makes 30 packs of 100 pieces a day. More pieces were made when it's fiesta time, Sylvia said.

So, on our first day in Bohol, we went to the places visited on that first trip. The next day was for making new memories.

The hills are alive

With *broas* to sustain us, we headed for the Chocolate Hills passing through the cool forest of mahogany trees. After the rains, the hills are green instead of brown but they still are awesome wonders.

Next destination was Loboc town where we marveled at the church including its music museum. We prepared for the river cruise, stopping for lunch as our driver-guide negotiated with the boat man.

We made do with the prepared buffet of the usual suspects—pork barbecue, *pancit*, chop suey. Like most buffets in the country, food was served in chaffing dishes but the food was not heated because alcohol burners underneath were not lighted. Restaurant operators must realize it's not safe to serve food that way.

At the Loboc river, my sisters and I lived up to the family tradition of jumping into any body of water notwithstanding the strong current that almost brought one of us under one of the caves.

We ended the tour with the necessary pictures with the tarsiers, one of which frightened me because it kept jumping from branch to branch. What if it thought I was a tree? The guide kept reassuring me that the small creatures were more afraid of humans.

We were back where we started two days after, at the pier waiting for our ride back to Cebu. Our reliable *Mang* Nestor brought us there on time. Would that all ports (air and sea) and every province had one just like him.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04 @yahoo.com

Kapampangan food goes south

FANS OF KAPAMPANGAN FOOD SOUTH of Manila not fret about having to go all the way to Makati or Ortigas. Cabalen, the eat-all-you-can, eat-all-you-want restaurant, recently opened a new branch at the third level of Festival Mall in Alabang.

The new Cabalen is a 190-seater restaurant adorned with *narra* furniture, antique chandeliers and glass mirrors. On the P249 eat-all-you-can buffet counter are murals painted by Manny Baldemor and Robby Mananquil.

There is an exclusive function room good for 40 persons and ideal for weddings, baptismal parties, debuts, business meetings and family reunions. Set menus accommodate different budget requirements.

Cabalen offers Pampanga's renowned dishes like sizzling Sisig, Kare-Kare, Bopis, Nilasing na Hipon, Bistig Tiyan ng Bangus, Inihaw na Hito, Chicharon Balat, Crablets, Lumpia, Tokwa't Baboy, Crispy Kangkong and an assortment of native salads. Tibok-Tibok, Tibok-Mais, Leche Flan, Halaya Ube and gelatin complement the do-it-yourself Halo-Halo buffet.

Currently sizzling at Cabalen is the Tuna Festival with dishes, such as Quilain Tuna, Inihaw na Panga ng Tuna, Bistig Tuna Belly, Sigang Ulo ng Tuna Sa Miso and Fried Tuna Tail.

Cabalen's in-house brands like Taba ng Talangka, Ginisang Bagoong, Burong Hipon and Sweet Chili Sauce are also available at the Pinoy Deli section of all Cabalen restaurants.

Cabalen Restaurants are located at 67 West Avenue, QC; 2/L, SM City North Edsa, QC; 4/L, Bldg B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong; 2/L, Robinsons Place Ermita, Manila; Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati; G/L, Robinsons Starmills, San Fernando, Pampanga; Brickroad Area, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta, Rizal. Soon to open is a branch at SM Clark, Pampanga.

Call 9111584. For catering needs, call 4219220 or 9135522.

BUFFET spread

CONCON Reyes, Cabalen operations manager; Joanne Gasgonia, Festival Supermall operations division manager; Cynthia Esteban, marketing project manager; Marivic Arugay, marketing divisions manager; Lorraine Feliciano; Fr. Luis Candelaria; Maritel Nievera Shani; Ely Peralta, leasing divisions manager; Jenny Pagalilauan, Festival Supermall PR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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INSIDE

■ **Wildcard round on 'Idol'**/D8

■ **Singin' in the rain for peace**/D6

■ **Annabelle's words of wisdom**/D7

■ **Keanna Reeves back on her toes**/D7

■ **Bonding with GMA 7 CEO**/D3

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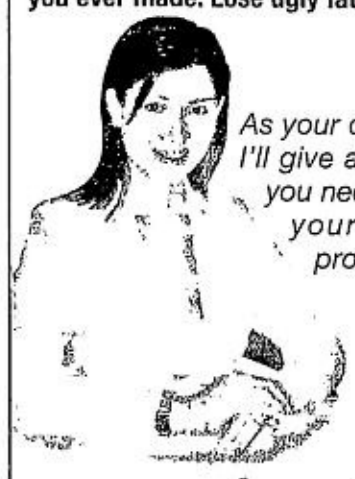

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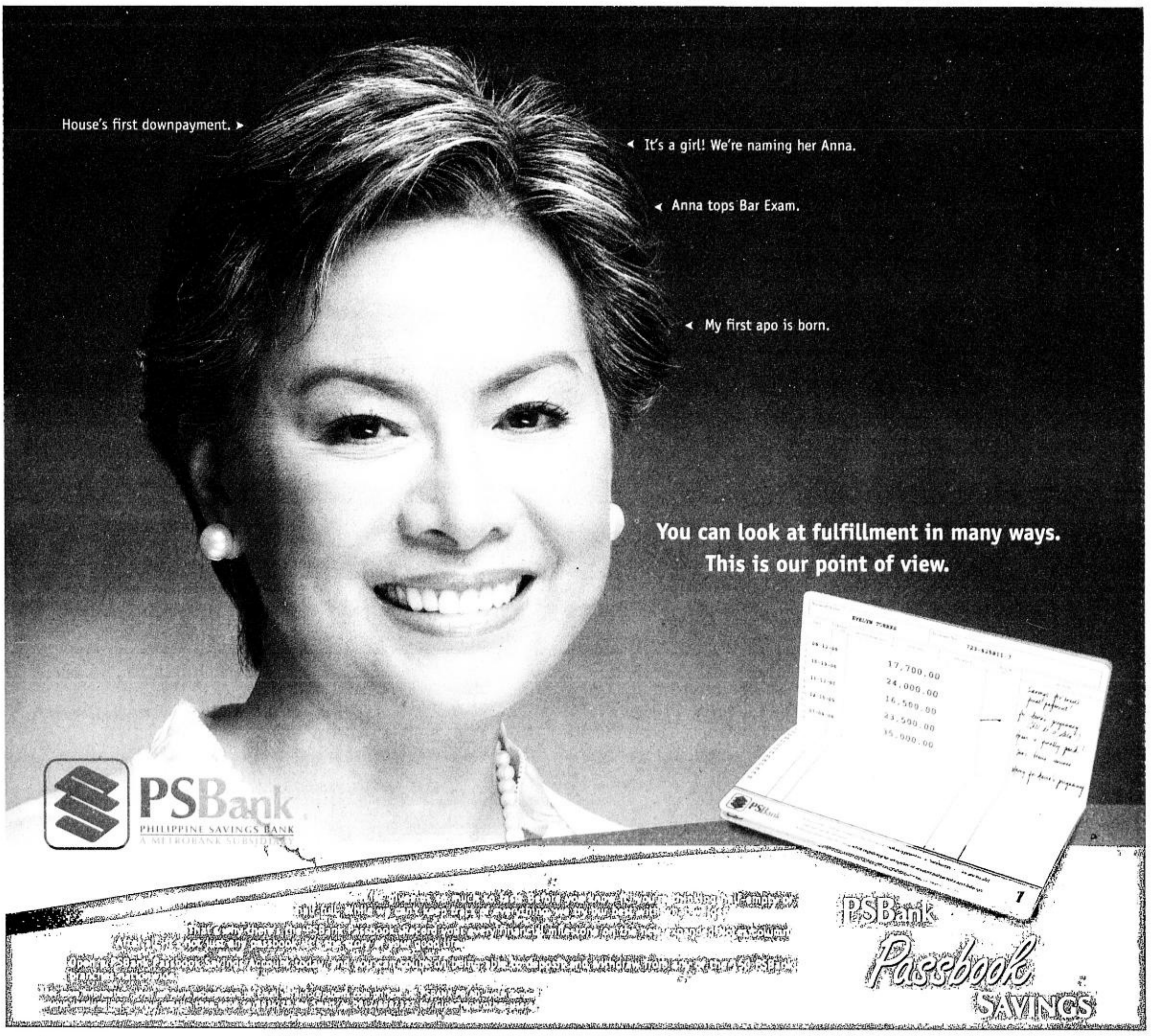

Toronto fest top winners

"BELLA" star Ali Landry AP

TORONTO—THE UNHERALDED "Bella," Mexican-born director Alejandro Gomez Monteverde's feature film debut, took the top audience prize at the 31st Toronto International Film Festival, while international critics gave an award to the controversial British TV movie "Death of a President," which centers on a fictionalized assassination of George W. Bush.

"Bella," a romantic film which tells the story of a former Mexican soccer star turned chef (Mexican actor Eduardo Verastegui) and a troubled waitress (American stage actress Tammy Blanchard) whose lives converge and turn upside down during a single day in New York, was the surprise winner of the People's Choice Award voted on by festival audiences.

Monteverde, who was born in Mexico but moved to the United States as a teenager, earlier this year married actress and former Miss USA Ali Landry, who has a supporting role in the US-produced "Bella."

British director Gabriel Range's "Death of a President" stirred up a strong reaction even before it premiered at the fest, but it won the Prize of the International Critics. The jury of critics cited it "for the audacity with which it distorts reality to reveal a larger truth." *AP*

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	4 KINKY BOOTS	5 CRANK	6 STEP-UP	7 YOU, ME & DUPREE
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GMA 7 soars high in Durian Republic

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I HAD A BLAST IN DAVAO DURING GMA-7'S Kapuso Day at the NCCC Mall. The venue was packed during the whole-day affair. A sure sign that, just like the Philippine eagle that's found in Davao, GMA is soaring high in Durian Republic.

Celebrities present were **Patrick Garcia, Camille Prats, Rhian Ramos, Wendell Ramos, Maureen Larrazabal, Keempee de Leon, Yasmien Kurdi, Rainier Castillo, Jessica Soho, Arnold Clavio, Jiggy Manicad, Jay Taruc, Pia Arcangel, Tonypet Gaba, Bea Binene** and **Gabby Roxas**. They were joined by Davao teen stars **Kristine Gonzales, Kristal Gonzales** and **Niko Ferrer** (hosts of the popular show "Kuyaw" which means "Astig"). Shamrock delighted Davaoenos with a free concert.

Bonding with the boss

The highlight of my first Davao trip was bonding with GMA 7's chairman, president and CEO **Felipe Gozon** and his charming wife Tessie. They were so genuinely warm and down-to-earth that I almost forgot they're such bigwigs. I was so touched when Mr. Gozon acknowledged my mom's priceless contribution to GMA 7.

He is dead-set on making GMA No. 1 in Davao: "We are upgrading our facilities and signal. We are spending P168 million to improve our transmitters nationwide. I really want to conquer Davao so we are putting up a building here by next year. Our local newscast "Testigo" and "24 Oras" are already top raters in Davao. Our other shows are not far behind unlike before *na naiiyak ako* when I see the ratings."

He wondered why, when it came to cable ratings there's a discrepancy. "I've hired statistics experts to explain why, in non-cable ratings, GMA leads but *sa* cable ratings *talo kami*. It defies logic. Okay *lang naman sa akin* if *patas ang labanan. Wala sanang dayaan*."

But the warm welcome given by the Davaoeños was more than enough to maintain Mr. Gozon's high spirits. I admire his honesty and dedication. Now I know why the GMA rank and file are unanimous in saying that he's really the secret of the station's success.

All in all, it was a wonderful birthday treat for me. Special thanks to my dear colleagues **Ambet Nabus** (Daily Tribune), **Mario Bautista** (People's Journal), **Shirley Pizarro** (Manila Bulletin), **Mario Hernando** (Malaya) and GMA's ever dependable **Butch Raquel, Butch Bustamante, Ramir Orteza** and **Jojo Aquio**. The sweetness of your company overpowered the pungent smell of Durian during our fun Kapuso weekend in Davao.

F.Y.I. (For Your Indulgence)

• Someone in the know called me up regarding my item about **Iya Villania** who was reportedly spotted kissing a network top executive. It turns out that the big boss' girlfriend is a deadringer for Iya. But what's this I hear that he is also eyeing **Toni Gonzaga**? Is he officially separated from his wife, and so he's now into field work? Playing the field, that is.

• Side A frontman **Joey Generoso** told me that his daughter seems to be following in his footsteps. "She has her own band. Bass player *siya*. Makes me a proud dad!" Wouldn't it be cute if she named her future band Side B?

• A make-up artist close to **Heart Evangelista** insists that she has split up with **Jericho Rosales**. But insiders refuse to buy the story. They think it's just a ploy to divert attention from the ongoing case filed by an ex (**Jane Gonowon**) of Echo's brother Jeremiah against Jeremiah and his mom Rose, for frustrated intentional abortion. Perhaps Echo will just sing his troubles away with his newly-formed band Jeans.

• Speaking of Heart and Echo, I cornered Mr. Gozon if it's true that they are moving to GMA-7. He chuckled. "Funny, but sometimes I'm the last one to know!" But of course. He has the last say!

• **Marvin Agustin** is overjoyed about his Luna Best Actor award. He is raring to do the GMA soap with **Robin Padilla** and **Angel Locsin** starting October. His Star Cinema movie "Huwag Ka Lilingon" with **Anne Curtis** and **Kristine Hermosa** will be out Oct. 25. Only a best actor like Marvs can have the best of both networks!

• **Regine Velasquez** arrived four hours late for the taping of "Pinoy Pop Superstar" due to traffic. Surprisingly, *Direk* **Louie Ignacio** didn't flare up. Is a diva like Regine worth the long wait or don't the contestants have much of a choice?

• Is it true that **Dingdong Dantes** has qualms about going topless in "Atlantica" because he has scratch marks? But his tight fitting costume will reveal if he has the bulges in the right places!

• I was seated in the same row as **Champ** (Hale vocalist) en route to Davao. He was with a Japanese-looking girl and guy. I couldn't tell if the "Haponesa" is his GF but he was quite chummy to her. Is she really the champ of his heart?

Kudos to my good friend **Ricky Lo**! LO and Behold! His "Showbiz Stripped" consistently tops the ratings in spite of its late time slot. I hardly miss an episode.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

KAPUSO stars with GMA Network president Felipe Gozon

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11:35 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

6 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:50 3:05 5:20
THE WICKER MAN 7 55 10:00

8 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

10 CRANK
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

ERMITA 36-7809 to 12

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
SCOOP
3 STEP UP
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
5 THE BREED
6 CRANK
YOU'RE THE ONE
7 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

METRO EAST 682-8199 682-8199

1 THE BREED
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 STEP UP
4 CRANK
5 TWILIGHT DANCERS
6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
7 YOU'RE THE ONE
8 RESERVE

NOVALICHES 935-3231 7 935-3228-30

1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 ETERNITY
2 YOU'RE THE ONE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE BREED
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 STEP UP
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

IMAHE NASYON

20 years after EDSA.
20 short films. 20 filmmakers.
Isang pelikulang napapanahon.

Bring any Martial Law memorabilia (newspaper clippings, photos, shirts etc.) on September 22, 3:00 PM • Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Customer Service to get movie invites on its* **Premiere Screening on September 22 Robinsons Galleria Cinema 1 THX

PELIPULA

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 THE WICKER MAN
3 YOU'RE THE ONE
4 CRANK

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 CRANK
2 SPL
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU'RE THE ONE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 CRANK
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 THE WICKER MAN
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU'RE THE ONE
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 STAY ALIVE
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 THE WICKER MAN
4 YOU'RE THE ONE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 CRANK
3 SCOOP
4 ETERNITY
5 YOU'RE THE ONE
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 YOU'RE THE ONE
5 KUBRADOR
6 BINIBINING K

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 YOU'RE THE ONE

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For marketing and events/reservations please call: Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

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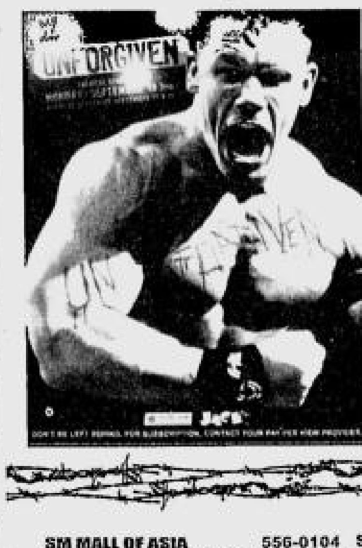

WEEKEND SCREENINGS!
Friday 7PM • Saturday: 3:30PM
Sunday: 3:30PM
Tickets at P150

Witness WWE's UNFORGIVEN on the big screen at these SM Cinema branches:
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Manila (523-9240) • Southmall (806-6888)
Fairview (935-0749) • Sta. Mesa (716-1416)
Mall of Asia (556-0104) • San Lazaro (786-2488)
Cebu (032)231-3876 • Pampanga (045)9637681-85
Davao (082)2976998 • Clark (045)625-5844-45

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
IMAX
ANT BULLY IN FULL IMAX 3D
2:00PM 4:00PM 6:00PM
Admission Price- P300
SUPERMAN RETURNS
8:00PM
Admission Price- P350
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 CRANK/ SCOOP
3 JOBS DB EVENT
4 JOBS DB EVENT
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
PREMIERE CINEMA
THE BREED
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
DEAD OR ALIVE
CENTERSTAGE
STEP UP
CINEMA 1
STEP UP
CINEMA 2
DEAD OR ALIVE
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 STEP UP
2 WICKER MAN
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
5 STEP UP
6 CRANK
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 PAGDADALAGANI MAXIMOOLIVEROS
10 SNAKES ON A PLANE
11 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12 THE BREED

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 STEP UP
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 THE BREED
6 CRANK
7 PAGDADALAGANI MAXIMOOLIVEROS
8 SCOOP
9 WICKER MAN
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PAGDADALAGANI MAXIMOOLIVEROS
2 ETERNITY
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 WICKER MAN
5 THE BREED
6 CRANK
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 STEP UP
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 LITTLE MAN
11 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 STEP UP
3 THE BREED
4 CRANK
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
8 ETERNITY
9 WICKER MAN
SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 STEP UP
4 THE BREED
5 PAGDADALAGANI MAXIMOOLIVEROS
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 CRANK
3 THE BREED
4 STEP UP
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 WICKER MAN
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 PAGDADALAGANI MAXIMOOLIVEROS

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 CRANK
4 THE BREED

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 STEP UP
2 WICKER MAN
3 CRANK
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 DEAD OR ALIVE
7 PAGDADALAGANI MAXIMOOLIVEROS
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 SCOOP
12 THE BREED

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
CRANK
WICKER MAN
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
YOU ARE THE ONE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
CRANK
YOU ARE THE ONE
STORMBREAKER

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
CRANK
WICKER MAN
SNAKES ON A PLANE
YOU ARE THE ONE

movietime PROMO

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Share a movie with a loved one at SM Cinema

Buy two movie tickets and get a **FREE MOVIE** ON YOUR NEXT VISIT.

Our way of thanking you for sharing your life with us.

Promo is from Aug. 14 to Oct. 15 Mondays thru Thursdays. Also applicable every 3 Day Sale (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) on particular mall within the promo period. FREE movie pass is valid on a specific 60-day period.
See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2440 Series of 2006.

Megamall • North Edsa • Manila • Sta.Mesa • San Lazaro • Sta. Rosa • Las Piñas • Fairview • Sucat • Bicutan • Valenzuela • Molino • Bacoor • Dasmarinas • Batangas • Lucena • Marilao • Pampanga • Clark • Baguio • Cebu • Davao • Cagayan de Oro • Iloilo • The Podium • Mall of Asia Cinemas

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 CRANK
2 LOVE WRECKED
3 MORTUARY
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)6332013-17
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 WICKER MAN

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 SCOOP
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 CRANK
5 WICKER MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 ETERNITY
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 KUBRADOR
3 CRANK
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MORTUARY
3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 SNAKES A ON PLANE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 CRANK
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 SCOOP

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 SNAKES A ON PLANE
4 CRANK
5 SCOOP
6 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 THE BREED
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 CRANK

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341205-06
1 CRANK
2 WICKER MAN
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 CRANK
4 WICKER MAN
5 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
6 STORMBREAKER
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 RESERVED
3 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 BINIBINING K
7 RESERVED
8 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 BINIBINING K
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 BINIBINING K
3 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

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SHOWTIME EVENT CALENDAR

GET YOUR FREE TICKETS!

Lipton presents
2006 The Power of Music
TEA CAN DO THAT!
FEEL THE POWER OF LIPTON HOT TEA AND THE MUSIC OF THESE MOST SOUGHT AFTER BAND!

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myx SM SuperRadio NGAYON iFM 93.9 WRR 101.9

PAROKYA NI EDGAR
OCTOBER 6, 2006 • SM MEGAMALL
CINEMA 10 • 9:00PM

HURRY! FIRST COME FIRST SERVE!
GET A FREE INVITE !
TO THE POWER OF MUSIC SERIES WHEN YOU BUY THE LIPTON PACK AT PARTICIPATING
SM CINEMA POPPERS SNACKBARS:
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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

"GRIDIRON Gang"

Top movie: 'Gridiro

LOS ANGELES—IT WAS AN
weekend at the box office, altho
helped Sony Pictures and Dwa
Johnson score with the football
Gang."

The drama about a football te
geles juvenile detention center
mated $15 million in ticket sales
spot for the weekend. The debu
tor Sony its 10th top opener this
all-time industry record.

Estimated ticket sales for Frid
day at US and Canadian theate
Exhibitor Relations, official track

1) "Gridiron Gang," $15M;
Dahlia," $10.4M; 3) "Everyone's
4) "The Last Kiss," $4.7M; 5) "
$4.7M; 6) "Invincible," $3.9M; 7
ist," $3.8M; 8) "Little Miss Sunsh
"Hollywoodland," $2.7M; 10) "

'700 Club Asia'

"The 700 Club Asia" on Q
Ramil Reyes, a former member o
zon de Jesus, in tomorrow's ep
p.m.

Ramil joined the religious gro
en "temporary power and prot
peace, joy or real security. Accor
power came from the devil himse

The episode "Extra-Natural"
accepted this false practice and
leased from demonic power.

Peter Kairuz hosts.

Religious docu, albu

Jesuit Communications has r
mentary video and two new mus

"Stand By Me Still," a live re
certs staged in Sacred Heart Pa
Loyola House of Studies in
launched through a free prayer
22, 7:30 p.m. at the Church of t
de Manila University.

"Handog ng Misa" is a 25-m
tary video on the purpose and
various parts of the Mass, wi
Tagle as resource person and
narrator-host.

"Believe" is a compilation o
from various albums produced b
sic Ministry, featuring artists li
Hangad, Himig Heswita and No

For inquiries, call 426-5971.

'GamePlan'

"GamePlan" heads for the
California, that is—to check o
ning, a.k.a. Parkour. Four flippi
robatic Fil-Am traceurs de
kongs, vaults, rolls and climbs a

The program also instructs
handle themselves when caug
situations or unfamiliar surrou
self-defense moves.

The show's resident Misfit
shoots and scores as he play
street basketball. No blood, n
foul in this game.

This episode airs on Sept. 24
1:30 p.m. on Studio 23.

MTV's weeknights

MTV Philippines presen
"Switched on MTV," a daily pro
gram block featuring new pro
grams mixed with old favorites

"Wildboyz," which airs Mon
days at 9 p.m., follows Steve-
and Chris Pontius as they fin
themselves in exotic locales em
bracing local customs and in
digenous animal species.

"8th and Ocean" follows
9:30 p.m., with 10 models li
ing in an apartment complex
Miami's South Beach, each
them trying to make their wa
in a glamorous yet very d
manding industry.

Other shows: Tue
days—"Pimp My Ride," 9 p.
and "Cribs," 9:30 p.m.; Wedne
days—"Homewrecker," 9 p.
and "Score," 9:30 p.m.; Thu
days—"Punk'd," 9 p.m. a
"The Hills," 9:30 p.m.; F
days—"Boiling Point," 9 p.
and "My Own," 9:30 p.m.

New Newell film

BOGOTA—British Direc
Mike Newell has begun filmi
"Love in the Time of Choler
based on Gabriel Garcia M
quez's 1985 novel, in Carta
na.

Newell, also known for "H
ry Potter and the Goblet of Fi
and "Donnie Brasco," film
scenes this weekend in
walled colonial Caribbean ci
Factoria Street, according
members of the crew.

The film's cast inclu
Spaniard Javier Bardem a
Italian Giovanna Mezzogior
as well as Colombian act

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ROUNDUP

Catalina Sandino, nominated in 2005 for an Oscar as best actress in a leading role for her performance in "Maria, Full of Grace." Colombian-born US actor John Leguizamo and Benjamin Bratt, of Peruvian descent, will also star in the film, which has a $40-million budget.

Filming will continue over the next three months in Cartagena, along the Magdalena River and in the colonial city of Mompox, the native lands of Garcia Marquez, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982. He has been hired to write the screenplay. *AFP*

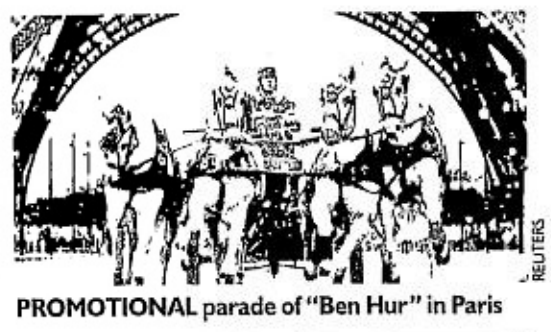
Ben Hur live

PARIS—"Ben Hur," the sword-and-sandal epic in which Charlton Heston swept to victory after cinema's most famous chariot race, is preparing to ride again in a live version in France's main football stadium.

The spectacle, mounted by veteran impresario Robert Hossein, will be biblical in scale, with a cast of hundreds recreating a battle at sea, a gladiatorial combat in ancient Rome and a live chariot race in the 15,000-square-meter arena.

"I can tell you that there are scenes in it that are absolutely breathtaking," said Jean-Christophe Giletta, of Stade de France Productions, which is putting on the show.

Ben Hur is the story of Jewish Prince Judah Ben Hur's triumph over his Roman persecutors, based on a novel by American Civil War Gen. Lew Wallace. *Reuters*



REUTERS

PROMOTIONAL parade of "Ben Hur" in Paris

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 STEP-UP MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
2 DEAD OR ALIVE MTRCB PG-13 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE MTRCB: PG-13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
4 MONSTER HOUSE MTRCB GP 1:20, 3:20 SCOOP MTRCB PG-13 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA MTRCB PG-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS
(Except for "THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA")
On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14 enjoy special prices of P99.00 for Cinemas 1-4 P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, sneak previews and and in conjunction w/ other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.
Specials last until Nov. 14, 2006. See posters and flyers for details
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 638-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
Don't Get Mad Get Even.
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
NOW SHOWING

Tonight! Eastwood City Jazz sessions
featuring

Brass Munkeys
September 21, 2006
8:00 PM / Eastwood City Walk 2
FREE ADMISSION
EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
MAGIC 89.9 & Eastwood City present

SPONGE COLA
September 22, 2006
8:00 PM / Eastwood Central Plaza
FREE ADMISSION
Eastwood City
Tel. 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
2 STEP UP 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
3 SCOOP 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
DEAD OR ALIVE 11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13

FROM THE CREATOR OF "A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET", "RED EYE", AND "SCREAM" COMES HIS LATEST SHOCKER!
MAN'S BEST FRIEND IS HIS WORST NIGHTMARE.
A GROUP OF TEENAGE FRIENDS.
A PACK OF FLESH EATERS.
ONE DESERTED ISLAND.
WHO WILL SURVIVE?
A WES CRAVEN PRODUCTION
THE BREED
DIRECTED BY NICK MASTANDREA
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
BASED ON THE #1 ACTION VIDEO GAME BY TECMO
NO RULES. NO MERCY. NO SURRENDER
NOW SHOWING
DOA
DEAD OR ALIVE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE TRANSPORTER"

MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
HEART-POUNDING ACTION.
MIND-BLOWING SUSPENSE.
EYE-POPPING BOX OFFICE SUCCESS.
POISON IN HIS VEINS.
VENGEANCE IN HIS BLOOD.
HE'S 60 MINUTES AWAY FROM LOSING HIS LIFE.
AND THE WOMAN HE LOVES.
THE TRANSPORTER IS BACK!
NO.1 MOVIE OF THE WEEK
JASON STATHAM
CRANK
NOW SHOWING

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1:00pm STEP UP
2:00pm DEAD OR ALIVE
3:00pm JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4:00pm MONSTER HOUSE SCOOP
PREMIERE
5:00pm THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 CRANK

Starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150
3 STEP UP
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 TWILIGHT DANCERS

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8804286, 5433994
1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 CRANK
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

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RESERVED
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PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
PLEASE CALL
YOU ARE THE ONE
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 THE WICKER MAN
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
5 STEP UP
6 DEAD OR ALIVE
7 CRANK
8 THE BREED
9 TWILIGHT DANCERS
10 YOU ARE THE ONE

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 STEP UP
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 THE BREED
2 STEP UP
3 TWILIGHT DANCERS
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 BINIBINING K
2 PLEASE CALL
3 PLEASE CALL
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449348)
1
2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1
2
3
4

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1
2

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 STEP UP
3 SCOOP
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 THE WICKER MAN
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 RESERVED
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 THE WICKER MAN
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 PLEASE CALL
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 MIAMI VICE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867738
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PLEASE CALL
2 PLEASE CALL
Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 PLEASE CALL
2 SEX SCANDAL
3 TAO LAMANG
4 PLEASE CALL
Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 MORTUARY
2 BABY DOLL
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 PLEASE CALL
Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0750
1 PLEASE CALL
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 CRANK
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2 PLEASE CALL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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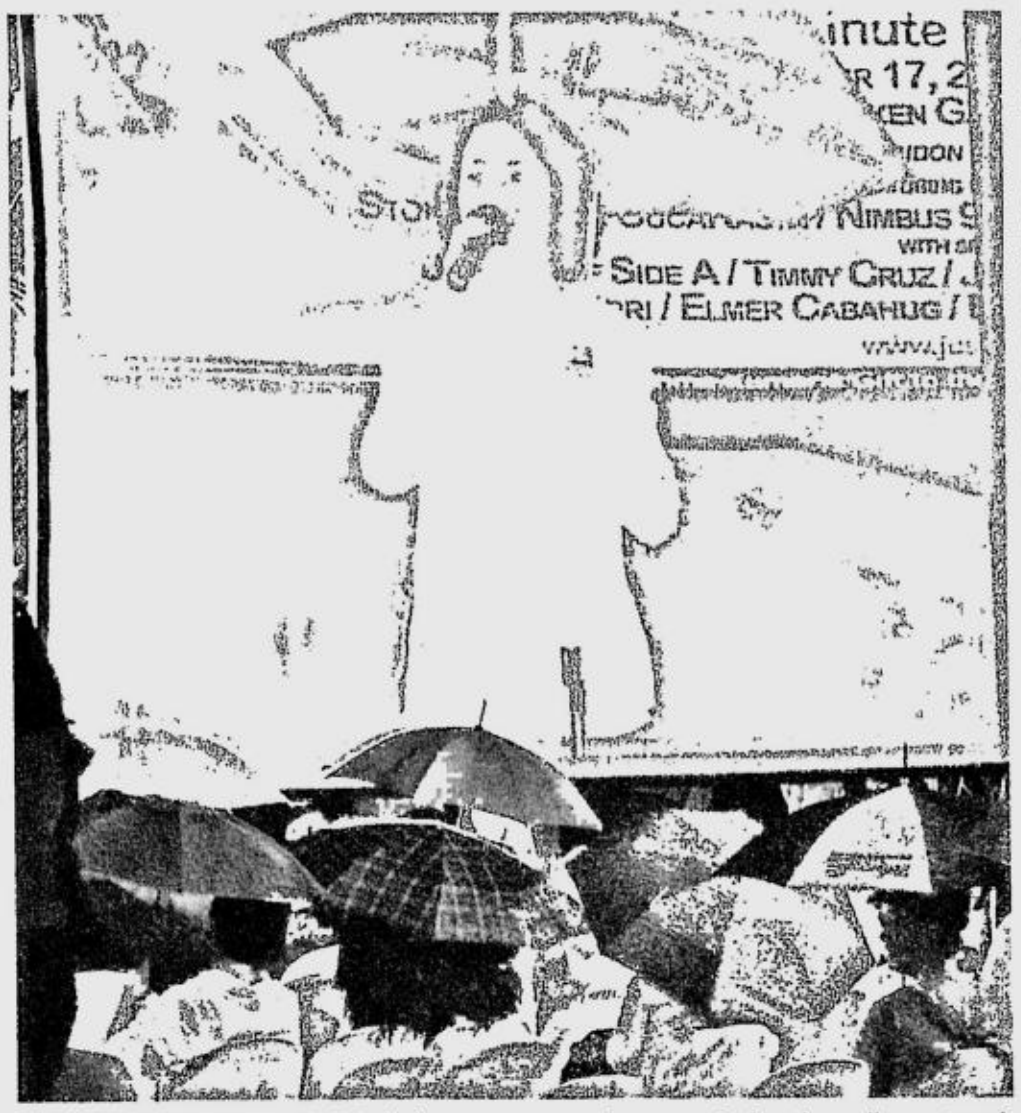
TANYA Diaz stood out with her gritty rendition of Guns N' Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine." RUDY ESPERAS



UMBRELLAS onscreen and off. Drizzles came, went and came again, but the audience stayed.

Singin' in the rain for 'just a minute'

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

A TYPICAL SCENE ON WEEKENDS around the garden at Greenbelt 3 would be the café crowd chattering while trying to make sense of music blasting from the bars; transvestites flirting with foreigners; and a steady stream of night owls out to get drunk and happy.

The place teemed with all sorts of noise.

Last Sunday was radically different.

Quiet.

The garden provided a soothing backdrop for an event that was promoting the joy of being still.

"j-a-m" it was called, acronym for "just-a-minute," a global campaign organized by the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU) for people to practice one-minute periods of silence per hour, with the promise of life-changing benefits.

Aside from Manila, the multi-media launch involved several major cities worldwide including Madrid, Moscow, Sydney, Rio de Janeiro and London where, at the Wembley Arena, Robin Gibbs of the Bee Gees led celebrities in attesting to the wonders of the practice.

REVIEW

In the Greenbelt show directed by Beq Arquilla, an assorted lineup of performers—Joey Generoso of Side A, Elmer Cabahug, 13th Trio, Nimbus 9, Bongo Ferraren, Tina Diaz, Joseph Perri, Jana del Prado, La Cucarasta, Stone Free, Valet Parking and Joint Forces—provided both entertainment numbers and testimonials.

Pop singer turned businesswoman Timmy Cruz opened the show with a couple of tunes that sounded like personal thoughts on her own "j-a-m" sessions. This, while playing with an umbrella given to her for protection against a drizzle.

From all the similarly-themed performances (including a poetry reading by former Congresswoman Lorna Verano-Yap), one stood out with a song originally by Guns N' Roses, a hard rock band not exactly known for espousing peace of mind. Yet the singer, Tanya Diaz, who accompanied herself on acoustic guitar, riveted the crowd with her powerfully touching vocals on "Sweet Child O' Mine"—which, indeed, referred to serene thoughts that were somehow appropriate for the occasion.

Easy as it may sound, how does one get into this one-minute habit?

From among several high-profile local personalities who gave testimonials on video, INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo probably said it best. In the midst of what he called the biggest crisis of his life (lawsuits and canceled radio/TV programs arising from his tiff with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo), Tulfo said he achieves peace of mind these days by pausing every minute or so and listening to his "inner voice"—that silent yet powerful mental expression of the self that clears away clutter arising from the stresses and distractions of daily living.

The big picture

"j-a-m" is a catchy phrase that also means meditation, reflection, visualization, focusing, concentration, yoga, or even prayer. The concept is made accessible by its neutral stance that welcomes everyone from all religions, political persuasions, races.

The bigger picture is that, if more people could make it an essential part of their lives, then the world might truly become a better place.

"j-a-m" instructionals may be downloaded from www.just-a-minute.org. Audio CDs are available locally. Call 890-7960 or 890-7906.

JAMMING FOR PEACE (clockwise, from top left): Jana del Prado, Tina Diaz, Cheska of Joint Forces, Lorna Verano-Yap, Elmer Cabahug, Bonggo Ferraren.

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

IF YOU CAN GET PAST THE thought that most of the high school characters in "John Tucker Must Die" don't look like teenagers, it should quickly work for you. But even if you initially mind the actors' de-aging, you'll get into the "teen" comedy eventually, anyway, if only to find out how the hot girls-versus-cheating stud scenario gets resolved. It's not a totally laugh-out-loud revenge flick, and it's especially grueling in some parts, but it still dispenses some snicker-worthy moments along the way.

REVIEW

Fairly accurate

The school setting in "John Tucker" isn't different from many others that present sharp divisions between social cliques. That's fairly accurate, and understandably becomes a little exaggerated here, given the material's intentions. Of course, as with most actual schools, the athletic hero is glorified and stereotyped as a babe-magnet. The movie's title character, star basketball player John (Jesse Metcalf), can pretty much get away with anything, including lying to, and seducing the school's hottest girls, whom the stud has charmed with virtually the same romantic catchphrases.

The story is told from the perspective of perennial wallflower Kate (Brittany Snow), who witnesses John's incessant cheating on smitten young women. Kate likens him to the no-good men that her single mom (Jenny McCarthy) keeps dating, losers she collectively calls "Skip" (because they all skip town after brief trysts). She soon inspires three love-struck schoolmates—cheerleader Heather (Ashanti), overachieving school reporter Carrie (Arielle Kebbel) and animal rights activist Beth (Sophia Bush)—into banding together to ruin John's reputation. Strangely, all their brilliant, well-planned ploys backfire.

When all else fails, the ace up their sleeve turns out to be Kate herself, whom the revenge-thirsty trio makes over into a hard-to-get hottie to attract, then break the heart of, the unrepentant player. The revenge sequences are cleverly imagined, but lacked surprise or immediacy in execution. Still, they're occasionally amusing. The object of the girls' scorn is deservingly subjected to humiliations.

Too tepid

"John Tucker Must Die" resembles many films, mostly teen-aimed, that portray young people as easily susceptible to peer pressure, and very capable of cruelty when provoked.

The subject of infidelity is addressed, too, but the conflict is resolved with a conclusion that seems a little too tepid and tame, dulling the craziness and calculated deceit that made its buildup moderately entertaining. "John Tucker" does send the message that honesty is still a virtue, that exclusivity is still a concept that must be respected by both parties in a relationship.

The movie typically has its share of pretty faces, shapely bodies and naughty behavior, making it distracting enough, dull resolution notwithstanding.

Weird kind of vengeance

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE NEW ANIMATION TECHNOLOGY called "motion-capture" is used to striking advantage in the current animated feature, "Monster House." It imbues the production with a more realistic look that makes its events and characters readily accessible to viewers.

Gil Kenan's film also takes the traditional Halloween staple, the haunted house, and runs with it much farther than before, by making it come dramatically come to life, and even feel a wide range of emotions.

As the movie imagines it, the "monster" house has taken to "eating" anyone who trespasses into its yard because the house itself is a monument and even a mausoleum to a love gone terribly wrong and vengeful.

Some years ago, an enormously fat woman was ridiculed by society, but found love in the arms of a gaunt man. Unfortunately, his love wasn't enough to salve all the cruelty, hate and anger that the outside world vented on her, so the despised woman exacted a weird kind of vengeance by *becoming* the house that contained her, and infusing it with her monstrous anger.

This is a far-out concept that's surprising to find in an animated feature, but filmmaker Keenan, under the mentoring of **Steven Spielberg** and **Robert Zemechis**, is able to pull it off.

As the house gains strength and viciousness, the movie becomes an anthropomorphic objective correlative for hatred *in extremis*, and the production moves up to a grander, more symbolic level.

If anything, or anybody can hate *this* much, the viewer intuits, it speaks volumes about the power of love gone wrong, and thus serves as a cautionary warning to us not to wound others' hearts to the quick.

Balancing the monstrous horror of the house's vengeful acts is the fact that the movie's action is seen through the eyes of children. This sweetens the potentially bitter brew and makes it easier for young viewers to see the production in the right context.

Still, the responsible parent or guardian should watch the film with his or her young ward, the better to explain potentially troubling visuals that very young children may find initially perplexing.

For older viewers, however, "Monster House" is a constantly escalating viewing treat, as it keeps developing its initial premise with prodigious creativity.

Yes, its finale is giddily over-the-top, but it's a fun visual trip all the same. And the production's more somber and mordant moments are welcome, because they place the movie's bigger and brasher sequences in thoughtful equipoise.

'ATL' on DVD and videos

=The direct to video film, "ATL," is a musical ensemble comedy set in an Atlanta hip-hop roller-skating rink. It stars **Tip Harris**, **Mykelti Williamson**, **Jackie Long** and **Keith David**, and has been released here on DVD and videos. Bonus features include Harris' "What You Know" music video, additional scenes and "In the Rink" director **Chris Robinson's** Journey.

'Pinoy Kamasutra'

The sexy instructional video, "Pinoy Kamasutra," teaches viewers how to bring back the fire to an ebbing sex life with pleasurable positions like The Fusion, The Arc, The Amazon and The Mold.

The video features Hot Babe **Katya Santos**, **Zara Lopez**, **Anna Scott**, **Maricar dela Fuente**, **Leilani Navarro**, **Scarlet** and **Sachie Sanders** and **Justin De Leon** and other Hot Men.

13 Artists awardees

The exhibit of the CCP's 13 Artists awardees will be opened on Sept. 28 at the Main Theater lobby. The exhibit at the CCP Main Gallery runs from Sept. 28 to Oct. 31.

The 13 Artists awardees are **Poklong Anading**, **Jeho Bitangcor**, **Mariano Ching**, **Lena Cobangbang**, **Daniel Coquilla**, **Luisito Cordero**, **Lyra Abueg Garcellano**, **Eugene Jarque**, **Jayson Oliveria**, **Gary-Ross Pastrana**, **Yasmin Sison**, **Ma. Cristina Valdezco** and **Jevijoe B. Vitug**.

Words of wisdom

RUFFA Gutierrez

"SAYANG ANG DATUNG, 'DAY!"

This was Annabelle Rama's not-too-subtle advice to daughter Ruffa Gutierrez, who hemmed and hawed about hosting RPN 9's forthcoming reality search, "Philippines' Next Top Model."

Ruffa said she was reluctant to leave her husband, Yilmaz Bektas, and two daughters in Turkey, where their family is based. "If I bring the girls with me, Yilmaz would call us 55 times a day," the actress said.

But now that Ruffa has agreed to do the show, will her feisty mom appear on the show? "I don't know," Ruffa said. "It took 27 takes to perfect her Advil commercial. I wonder what she would have the 'Top Model' contestants do. Poor women."

Precious attention

A beauty queen-turned-movie star is the object of a wealthy suitor's very precious (expensive) attention. She is brought to and from the movie set in chauffeur-driven luxury cars. Emphasis on "chauffeur" and "luxury."

Desperate 'artista'

Whenever her prettier and more talented friends are in the news, this desperate "artista" (in quotation marks because we still have to see that she could be called an actress) cooks up intrigues about ... herself! Granted, she has become quite the master of this game. But she should also know that people in the industry have noticed the pattern, and are watching her every move. Collective reaction to her most recent gimmick was: "Big deal!"

Oh, my flop

This sexy actress was so distraught over the lackluster box-office performance of her last movie, that she is dragging her feet on her next project, an entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival. Her producers are this close to dropping the project.

Alias John Tucker

Hunk Jesse Metcalfe on being a real-life John Tucker once upon a time: "I had three girls on the go at once. Three is a manageable number but it can get stressful and the juggling can be tough."

Groovy at 73

LAFAYETTE, Louisiana—Country music star Willie Nelson and four others were issued misdemeanor citations for possession of narcotic mushrooms and marijuana after their tour bus was stopped Monday morning on a Louisiana highway, state police said.

In a news release, state police said, "When the bus door was opened and the trooper began to speak to the driver, he smelled the strong odor of marijuana." A search produced 675 grams of marijuana and 10 grams of narcotic mushrooms.

Cited along with Nelson, 73, were Tony Sizemore, 59; Bobbie Nelson, 75; Gates Moore, 54; and David Anderson, 50. They were released after being issued a citation. *AP*

Happy with figure

NEW YORK—Scarlett Johansson shows off in cleavage-baring dresses on the red carpet, but in real life, she would rather remain a mystery.

"I can't stand those articles where people spill their life story," Johansson says in the October issue of InStyle magazine, on newsstands Friday.

Johansson, 21, admits she gets nervous about her career, even if her shooting schedule is cramped. She's more confident about her hourglass figure. "I'm curvy—I'm never going to be 5'11' and 120 pounds. But I feel lucky to have what I've got." *AP*

SCARLETT Johansson

RUSHES

Ashanti's debt

NEW YORK—Grammy-winning singer Ashanti testified Monday that she was a teenager trying to follow her dream when she worked a decade ago with a producer who is seeking more than $2 million for helping start her career.

Ashanti, now 25, was the first witness at a trial to determine how much she owes Genard Parker after another jury last year concluded she broke a contract with him. Her lawyer said Parker should receive no more than the $50,000 that a judge has already concluded must be paid.

A jury last year concluded the singer owed Parker $630,000 but US District Judge Jed Rakoff rejected most of the award.

Ashanti is currently starring as a cheerleader in "John Tucker Must Die."

Bushmen run to Leo

JOHANNESBURG—Botswana's San Bushmen, fighting a bitter battle for rights to ancestral land in the Kalahari desert, on Monday appealed for the backing of Hollywood heartthrob Leonardo DiCaprio.

Campaigners decided to write to the "Titanic" star after hearing about his upcoming movie "The Blood Diamond," in which he plays a smuggler of gemstones whose proceeds are used to help finance civil wars in Africa.

"Friends have told us that you are in a film, 'The Blood Diamond,' which shows how badly diamonds can hurt. We know this. When we were chased off our land, officials told us it was because of the diamond finds," Roy Sesana, a spokesperson for the Bushmen, said in a letter to DiCaprio. "Please help us Sir. We know you are a famous and respected man, and that if you speak up for us many people will listen. We just want to go home, and hunt and gather and live in peace like we have always done."

The appeal to DiCaprio also appears in a full-page advertisement in the film industry magazine Variety. *AFP*

ASHANTI

Just take a look at Keanna now

Text and photo by Nini Valera

SEXY STARLET KEANNA Reeves was on the brink of destruction just a year ago.

"My career couldn't take off despite the gimmicks my former manager had cooked up," she told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview recently.

"I was down and out and feeling very sorry for myself," she admitted. "My relationship with my boyfriend was going nowhere—he was draining me financially and emotionally."

But all that changed when she hit the jackpot in the reality show "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Edition." Now, Keanna is shuttling between the promo activities for her movie "Binibining K," produced by Reality Entertainment and directed by Joven Tan, and the shooting of Viva Films' "Reyna," directed by Soxy Topacio.

KEANNA Reeves

She is also the current object of two Frenchmen's affections. One is a model named Safian; the other a businessman named Jaques—she can't pronounce or spell their names.

"I met them at the Embassy Bar," she related. "I hang out there a lot with my friends. One of the owners of the bar introduced me to Safian."

But Safian was in the country only for nine days, so whatever was blossoming between them had to be cut short, Keanna said.

"Still he sends me text messages everyday," she said. "And he calls me a lot. I'm looking forward to getting to know him better when he returns."

Thus, Keanna is no longer entertaining thoughts of pursuing anything with Jacques. "*Syempre naman*. I already have Safian." But it has crossed her mind that this could be a fleeting thing. "I guess I just have to trust him and pray for God to make it right for me," she said.

It was God that she turned to at her lowest point. "[Until now] I go to Baclaran church every Thursday to hear Mass," she said. "No matter how tired I am, I find time for that."

But not all her prayers have been answered. "I still have not reconciled with one of my detractors, Tita Swarding," she said. "He insists that I should give him *balato* from my PBB winnings or, he said, he would expose my indiscretions to the world. But I have nothing to hide. I've wiped the slate clean, made up with my manager (Boy Abunda) and his staff, and am trying to make the most of my opportunities."

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Madame Loca, who prides herself in getting horny at the sound of a gunfire, and has for motto Go Global, manipulates the events that push the three dancers to fight for survival, and to finally confront issues of love, friendship and betrayal.
To top it all, a deaf-mute refuses to go back to her macho dancer husband, a director keeps promising stardom to a male dancer, who in turn lies to his mother that he works at a call center, a transvestite performer takes being a virgin, a tyrannical mayor cross-dresses at his birthday party, a union leader gets shot by an assassin in broad daylight.
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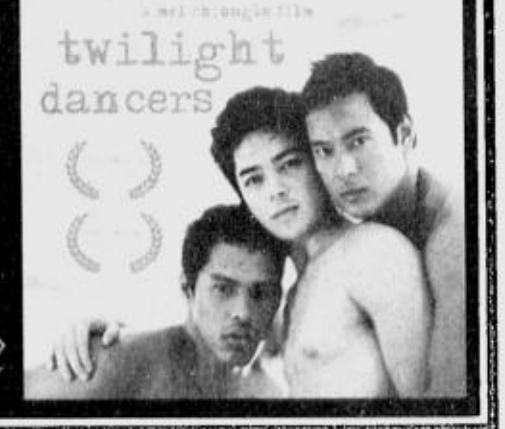

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THE WILDCARD contenders in a special production number.

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SUEY PANGAN helps up an emotional Mau; host Ryan Agoncillo and the three other wildcard winners look on.

The wildcard round

By Marinel R. Cruz

"PHILIPPINE IDOL" judge Ryan Cayabyab was pleased with the results of the talent search program's wildcard round on Sunday, saying all four contestants deserved to be in the finals.

Winners of the wildcard round were Mau Marcelo, Steph Lazaro, Gian Magdangal and Ken Dingle, who now complete the 12 "Idol" finalists.

"I'm very satisfied with the outcome, especially now that Mau and Gian are included," said Cayabyab. "Musically, they are really tops. Ken is a good singer, and so is Steph. Sunday night was proof that the public delivered the votes for Mau because they believed in her. For me, that's already a triumph of 'Philippine Idol'."

Marcelo, who received commendations from judges Cayabyab, Pilita Corrales and Francis Magalona, failed to land in the female Top 4. Two Saturdays ago, Cayabyab gave Marcelo a standing ovation, saying it was the least he could do, since he was sure the viewers wouldn't vote for her. He was right.

Surprise!

But last weekend, Marcelo pulled a surprise when she beat equally deserving semi-finalists Ira Marasigan, Suey Pangan and Ting Otero. "The viewers took a gamble with her," noted Cayabyab. "Now, they will demand that she give her best."

Mr. C said he had been proud of all Top 24 contenders. "*Wala kaming maitapon sa kanila*. But that's what makes this format fantastic. It's really up to the viewers."

This Saturday, the 12 finalists will take a back seat to nominees for the "Kakaibang Idol" award. To perform their "unique" audition pieces once again for a viewers' vote are: John Jerrico "Jeck" Perey, Kenneth Paul "Yova" Alonzo, Winjohn "John" Dakay, Lalaine Enriquez, Jhonalene "Jhona" Sison, Sheryll Anne "Shane" Romulo and Leonard Ocampo. The winner will be announced on Sunday.

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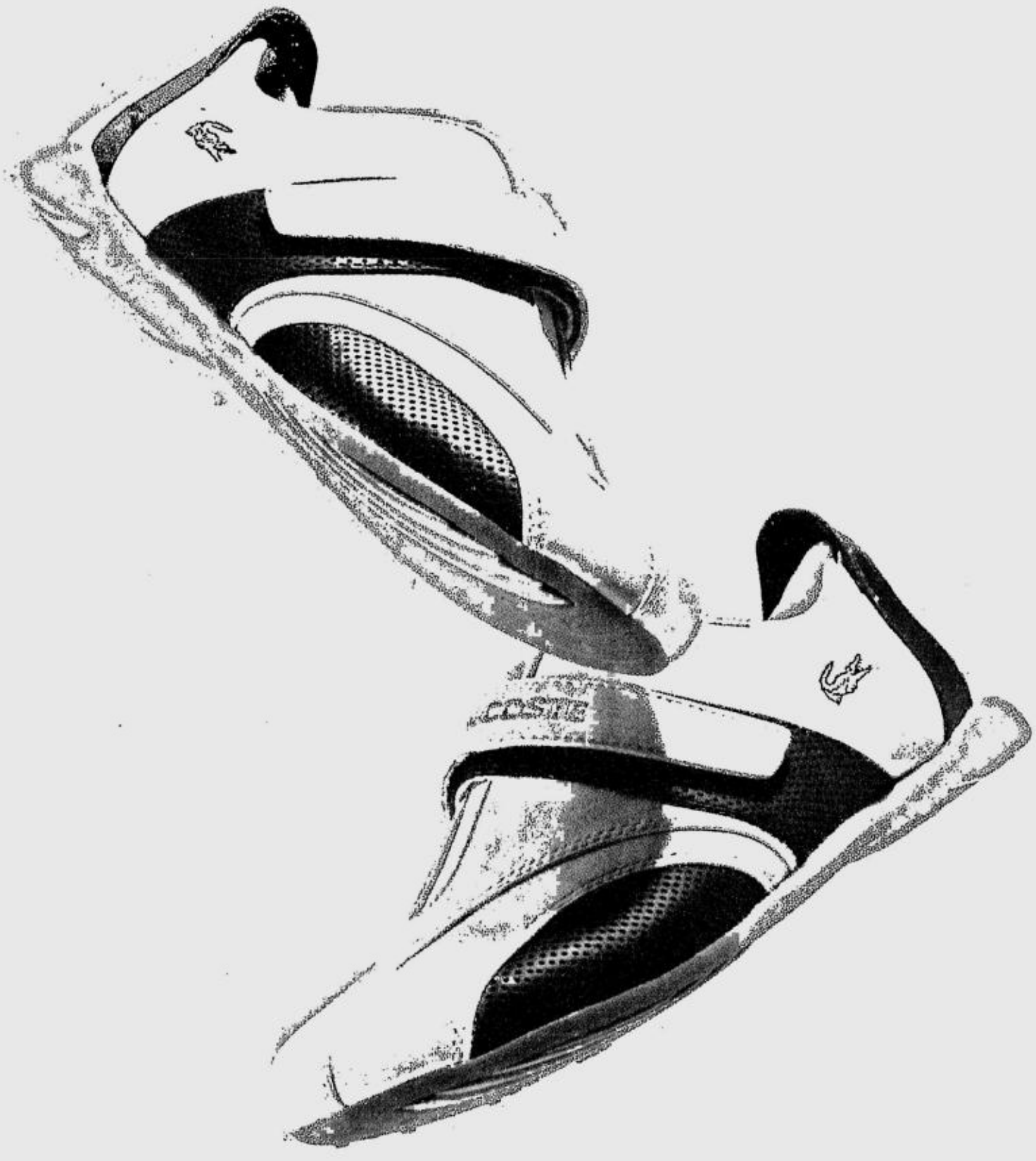

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BUSINESS / B1

Oil companies roll back fuel rates by 50¢/liter

METRO / A19

PBA coach suspended after lounge manager files suit against him

ACROSS / A16

Mindanao peace talks deadlock gives traders jitters

LIFESTYLE / C1

It's show time with Manila's most stylish

Chavez calls Bush devil, draws giggles at UN

UNITED NATIONS—MAKING the sign of the cross in a speech to the United Nations, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez called US President George W. Bush "the devil" and accused him of "talking as if he owned the world."

CHAVEZ/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, September 22, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 286 P18 website: www.inq7.net

'Twas consensual sex, US Marine tells court

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE THIRD OF THE FOUR US MARINES ACcused of rape by a Filipino woman yesterday testified that he saw no struggle between "Nicole" and her purported rapist during their brief ride in a rented van at the Subic Bay Freeport on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

Under clarificatory questioning by Judge

'TWAS/ A8

PROTESTERS march down Quezon Bridge on their way to Liwasang Bonifacio to mark the 34th anniversary of the declaration of martial law and condemn the spate of political killings under the Arroyo administration. RAFFY LERMA

Protesters warn GMA she'll end up like Thaksin

THOUSANDS OF PROTESTERS YESTERDAY rallied to denounce the spate of killings of antigovernment activists and to warn President Macapagal-Arroyo that she could suffer the same fate as Thailand's ousted leader.

Some 3,000 protesters, including nearly 1,000 who marched for four days from Quezon province, massed at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila to mark the 34th anniversary of the imposition of martial law by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos—a period marked by massive human rights violations.

The protesters also warned Ms Arroyo she could suffer the same fate as Marcos—who was toppled in a 1986 "people power" revolt—or Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a bloodless military-led coup on Tuesday.

Some protesters carried posters with pictures of Thaksin labeled "ousted," and Ms Arroyo marked "soon." They burned a car-size likeness of an Army tank topped with Ms Arroyo's head with the turret protruding from her mouth.

"Ms Arroyo is charting the same path of corruption and repression taken by both Marcos and Thaksin," said Carol Araullo, chair of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan). "She has every reason to be afraid right now be-

PROTESTERS/ A15

King backs coup; junta gags media

Generals ban political activities across Thailand

BANGKOK — THAILAND'S much-loved king has yet to say anything in public, but many Thais see his silence as proof he is supporting the military leaders who banned all meetings and political activities yesterday, two days after they ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in a coup.

"To ensure the constitutional monarchy is functioning after reforms have been completed, the Political Reform Council has ordered political parties to halt all meetings and political activities," the military said in a statement read out on television.

"Political gatherings of more than five people have already been banned, but political activities can resume when normalcy is restored," it said without specifying a time frame.

The ruling generals were also set to impose tough new curbs on the media, including a ban on expressions of public opinion as they tightened their grip on power, which was roundly condemned abroad, including in the United States.

An Army official said news and broadcast officials had been summoned to a meeting later in the day to spell out the new regulations.

But the nation was back to work as normal yesterday. Bangkok traffic was back to the familiar near-gridlock.

"The coup was seen as sanctioned, implicitly endorsed by the king, who is

KING BACKS/ A10

TANKS line the side of a highway in Bangkok's outskirts on Thursday as Thais went back to work barely 36 hours after a military coup ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. REUTERS

House leaders unite in stand vs martial law

By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

LEADERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTAtives yesterday joined the opposition in vowing to fight any move to reimpose martial law.

Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella said Filipinos were all too aware of the signs and would not tolerate the return of dictatorial rule.

"We shall never allow it again," Puentevella said, pointing out, however, that President Macapagal-Arroyo in all her actions to protect the state from recurring destabilization attempts never tried to impose martial law.

"If she does, it will even be a trigger for the people to turn against her," he said.

At the Senate, however, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile defended President Ferdinand Marcos' declaration of martial law 34 years ago and his own role in its implementation, but acknowledged that there were excesses.

"Martial law was proclaimed to address a

HOUSE/ A15

GMA calls for swift return of democracy

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday called for the immediate restoration of the rule of law and democracy in Thailand.

"As a neighbor, a longtime ally and fellow member of the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), we express our solidarity with the people of Thailand in their search for truth and unity," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

The President, who blunted a coup attempt in February, said that she was thankful that "not a single drop of blood was spilled" during the ouster of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Tuesday night.

"We join the international community in calling for the rule of law and restoration of democracy in Thailand in the soonest possible time," said Ms Arroyo, who was known to be a close ally of Thaksin.

Equally hopeful that democracy

GMA CALLS/ A8

THE MONUMENT to Joaquin "Chino" Roces is reflected in a puddle on the bridge, formerly Mendiola Bridge near Malacañang, named after the late newspaper publisher who was one of the staunchest critics of martial law. REM ZAMORA

SC allows Sabio to go home, stays arrest orders

By Leila B. Salaverria and TJ Burgonio

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY ordered the suspension of the Senate inquiry into the misuse of funds of certain sequestered corporations, and effectively allowed detained Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio to go home.

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban also suspended the arrest warrants issued by the Senate for four PCGG commissioners and five officials of Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC), but imposed a gag order on the parties concerned pending the resolution of the cases questioning the warrants.

"None of the parties is allowed to talk. There is a gag rule on the matter. You can't interview parties, which will be a violation of the ruling with contempt," said Ismael Khan, public information chief of the high court.

The parties were instructed to submit their memoranda in 15 days, after which the tribunal is expected to issue a ruling in a month's time.

Earlier in the day, Sen. Richard Gordon said Sabio was to be released regardless of how the Supreme Court ruled on the petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed by the PCGG in its chair's behalf.

But Gordon gave a caveat: Sabio should appear at the next Senate hearing on the alleged losses of PHC and related sequestered corporations or face rearrest.

Sabio, 70, was escorted to the Supreme Court for the oral arguments on the petition that pitted him and Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura against Sen. Joker Arroyo and the Senate counsel, Pacifico Agabin.

"Sabio is at present free, at the tolerance of the Senate," Gordon, chair of the investigating committee on government corporations, said in a forum at the Senate before he proceeded to the high court to attend the hearing.

He said Sabio, who had been in Senate custody since Sept. 12, could go home after the oral arguments and stay there without guards so long as he appeared at the next hearing when summoned.

Panganiban issued the orders after the high court heard the oral arguments of the parties questioning and defending the arrest orders issued against the PCGG commissioners and PHC officials who had repeatedly snubbed the Senate inquiry.

Of the arrest warrants, the only one enforced was that issued on Sabio.

The PCGG chair argued his own case before the 14 Supreme Court justices.

Justice Renato Corona inhibited himself from the proceedings, citing close ties with one of the parties.

During the interpellation by the justices, Sabio said he did not want to testify before the Senate because its

SC ALLOWS/ A4

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/21/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

PNP restricts Congress guards

Stop serving arrest warrants for lawmakers, cops ordered

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE SAID YESTERDAY ITS JOB as far as both houses of Congress were concerned was to guard the premises of both chambers.

In a statement to media, PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said any other police functions that may be required by the Senate and the House of Representatives "shall be endorsed by the installation's security personnel to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) or the local PNP units concerned."

Calderon made the clarification after members of the PNP Special Action Force (SAF) were reprimanded by the police leadership for participating in the arrest last week of Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) Chair Camilo Sabio.

SAF operatives had accompanied Senate sergeant at arms personnel to the PCGG offices in Mandaluyong City to serve an arrest warrant on Sabio after he repeatedly refused to heed summons to appear at a Senate inquiry into the dissipation of assets of certain government-sequestered corporations.

The SAF provides security at the Senate building in Pasay City and the Batasang Pambansa (House of Representatives) complex in Quezon City. The Police Security and Protection Office (PSPO), on the other hand, provides close-in security personnel or bodyguards to some members of both chambers.

PNP Operations Director Wilfredo Garcia said all security personnel assigned to the Senate and House "shall only take direct orders from the chain of command."

The Department of Interior and Local Government has sought the opinion of the Department of Justice on the legality of the PNP serving warrants of arrest issued by nonjudicial offices with contempt powers.

Pending the legal opinion from the DOJ, Garcia said all PNP units had been instructed to stop serving arrest warrants issued by Congress.

The SAF had earlier asked to be relieved of its duties at the Batasan and the Senate.

SAF officials said the unit was shifting its personnel to counterinsurgency duties as mandated by Executive Order No. 546 which expanded the roles of the police and local government units in the fight against the communist rebellion.

Maj. Gen. Jose Balajadia (ret.), the Senate sergeant-at-arms, however, said yesterday the PNP wanted to replace the entire 60-member SAF contingent in the chamber with noncombat units from the PSPO.

"I will not assume this has political undertones," Balajadia said, referring to the soured relations between the Senate and Malacañang over the former's investigation of executive branch officials which President Macapagal-Arroyo has opposed.

Balajadia said the SAF commander informed him about a month ago that "one of these days, the SAF is going to be replaced by the PSPO."

Balajadia defended the participation of eight SAF members in the serving of the arrest warrant on Sabio, saying they were there to prevent any "untoward incidents." *With Juliet Labog-Javellana*

EAVESDROPPING. President Macapagal-Arroyo listens to one of the conversations between a client and a call center agent during yesterday's inauguration of the third ICT Contact Center, one of the world's biggest call center companies, at the Riverbanks Center in Marikina. Looking on are US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, Marikina Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando and MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando. LYN RILLON

Call center bullish on RP

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THIS GLOBAL CALL CENTER COMpany has more than 40 offices spread across different countries.

The biggest of its offices, employing close to 2,000 call center agents and trainers, is the 7-month-old workstation in Marikina which was inaugurated early yesterday by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The company is the ICT Group, a business process outsourcing solutions provider based in United States but which also operates in Canada, Australia, India and Mexico.

The group has 16,000 employees, 4,000 of which are Filipinos working in the company's three offices in the Philippines, according to company president John Brennan.

ICT's two other Philippine call center offices are in Makati and Ortigas.

Brennan said he was on the lookout for three more cities and towns outside Metro Manila as possible locations for new call center offices.

He said the performance of Filipino call center agents was "of the highest quality."

'Spectacular'

"They are quick to learn and they show great enthusiasm for the job," he said.

ICT senior vice president John Langford described the work of Filipino call center agents as "spectacular."

He said customer satisfaction for their call center offices here was "very high".

Though the group worries about political instability, this would not discourage the company from expanding its operations here, said Longford.

Langford, who has been overseeing the group's operations here for the past three years, said he had witnessed the 2004 elections, the numerous rallies against the President and other controversies.

"But these issues do not disrupt the operations of our company," he said, adding that the company had already exceeded its original investment plan in the country.

The new office at the Marikina City Riverbanks cost the company close to $5 million, Brennan said.

He said they chose the city as the site of their third office in the country because of its proximity to universities and companies as well as the local government's support.

"The supply of good labor here far outweighs the demand as we see it today," Brennan said.

Local officials are keeping their fingers crossed that the new call center office, the first to be set up in Marikina, will boost the local economy and attract more investors to the city.

GMA won't cut down on travel

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG IS not about to reduce the foreign trips of President Macapagal-Arroyo even after a House ally warned of possible Thai-inspired coups in the coming days.

In fact, the President is apparently planning even more trips. The Office of the President wants to increase from P261 million to P323 million its traveling expenses, which are included in the P3.8-billion proposed budget for 2007.

Noticing this sudden hike in the proposed official travel expenses of President Arroyo for next year, Rep. Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur quipped:"Don't you think that's not a very good proposal? The president's enemies might copy the Thai coup and oust her in her absence, so we better reduce the traveling expenses of the President."

Ousted

Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted by his Army chief while he was away on a trip to the United Nations general assembly in New York.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who attended yesterday's budget hearing at the House of Representatives, took the banter in stride and retorted that President Arroyo was "so confident of the political situation," that "whether she leaves for two days, five days, 10 days, or even 15 days, things are OK."

Ermita assured Cagas and other members of the House appropriations committee chaired by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda that the proposed increase was "no cause for alarm."

Ermita recalled that during President Corazon Aquino's time, the prime minister of Pakistan was ousted while visiting Manila.

"But it has not happened in the Philippines, especially under the leadership of President Arroyo, because I think everyone knows the political situation is very stable," he said. The armed forces are "pretty much in control," he added.

Not to worry

"They are behind the duly constituted authorities and therefore there is no cause for concern or worry that what happened in Thailand would or could happen in the Philippines given our political stability at the moment."

Ermita took the opportunity to bat for the proposed charter changes to shift to a parliamentary form of government. He said that more coups and military takeovers have happened in countries under the presidential form compared to those under a parliamentary system. The number is 63 percent and 14 percent, respectively, he added.

"I could make this data available to media if only to prove my point that the parliamentary system of government could better serve the national interest of the Philippines," Ermita said.

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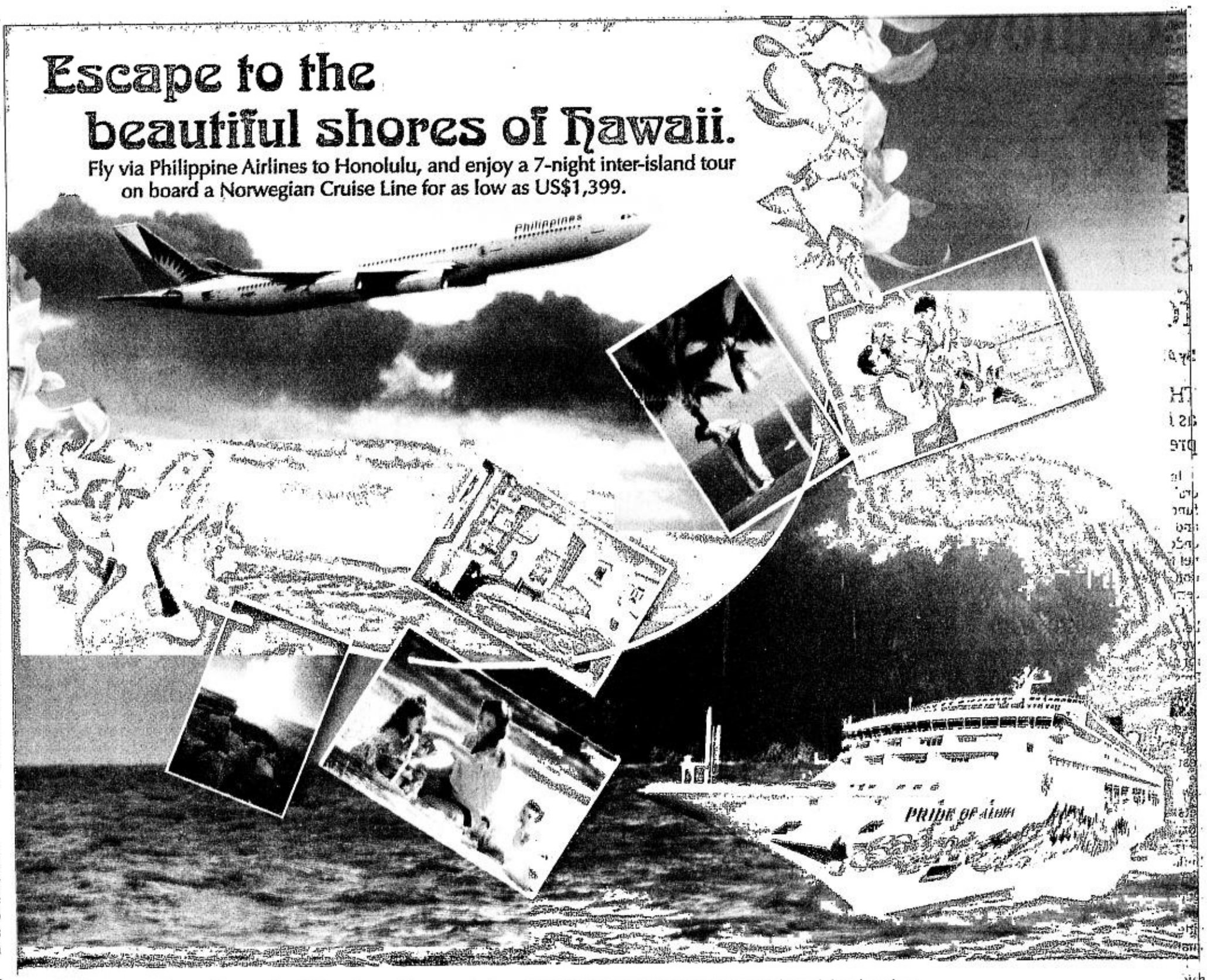

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Facial Care Centre (FCC), the same company that brought the LaserLight Hair Removal, recently introduced another breakthrough in permanent hair removal: **Comet Hair Removal.** It is the most effective machine for treating all colors of skin and hair. From blondes to dark-skinned, this method of hair removal absolutely works with the least discomfort. FCC breaks new ground once again as it pioneers in the Philippines the internationally recognized and much talked about **ELOS technology** in hair removal.

The Comet system employs the powerful combination of electro-optical synergy (ELOS) and bi-polar radio frequency (RF). The energies coming from laser and radio frequency produce epidermal and dermal heat at accurate controlled depth. It can provide individual adjustment of radio frequency and laser energies to achieve maximum efficiency and safety for each patient.

Dr. Isabelita Joya, FCC in-house dermatologist states, "The technology of Comet Hair Removal yields fantastic results on very light blonde hair and dark skin types without having to increase the optical energy level. Since radio frequency does not hit melanin or the pigments in the skin that are responsible for our skin color, clients with any skin type will find this treatment effective. Comet also has active dermal monitoring which measures the amount of electrical power absorbed by the skin. This makes the device automatically measure and adjust the amount of heat generated in the skin to effectively treat the areas with facial or body hair."

"I heard this from a photographer during the shoot. He said my armpits were nice. There's no need to PhotoShop them!"

Dr. Joya further explains, "Except for minimal temporary redness in treated areas that disappears in minutes after a session, there is no side effect that will hinder you from immediately resuming your daily activities right after the treatment." The number of treatments required depends on the area to be treated but an average of six sessions is usually required.

TV show host and professional model Amanda Griffin enthuses about having discovered Comet. Amanda relates, "Beautiful skin is important for me because of my job. I try to take care of my skin as much as possible."As for unwanted hair removal, Amanda relates, "I was tired of shaving and I was getting stubbles. My armpits became irritated and waxing was painful. I wanted to get rid of the unsightly hair permanently." After just a few sessions of Comet Hair Removal treatment, she is free from problems with unwanted body hair and irritated skin from the discomforts of shaving and waxing.

For Amanda, it took only the first treatment to see a great outcome. "I saw results right after the first treatment. I practically didn't have hair left." What's even better, she did not experience any adverse reaction at all which made her like the Comet Hair Removal treatments even more. Now almost finished with her Comet programme for the underarms, Amanda smiles with satisfaction when talking about the compliments she gets. "I heard this from a photographer during the shoot. He said my armpits were nice. There's no need to PhotoShop them!" She adds, "My skin is soft in the armpits. After my third treatment, I only had one or two hairs that grew back but no stubble anymore. I also recommend it to everyone I know that they should definitely go and get it. It made such a difference for me, not having to shave ever!"

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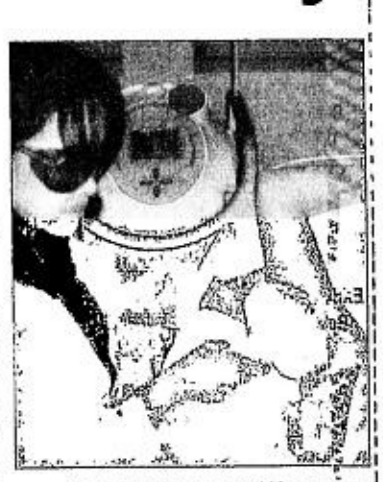
Comet Hair Removal Treatment

Amanda Griffin poses with FCC's Dr. Joya to promote her favorite Comet Hair Removal treatment.

SC allows Sabio to go home, stays arrest orders

From page A1

members were involved—either as lawyers or parties of interest—in the ill-gotten wealth cases that the PCGG was handling.

He also invoked Section 4B of Executive Order No. 1 when he argued that he could not be compelled to testify before the Senate, and said the provision was valid even if past PCGG chairs did not invoke it.

Section 4B of EO 1 states: "No member or staff of the [PCGG] shall be required to testify or produce evidence in any judicial, legislative or administrative proceedings concerning matters within its official cognizance."

Adversaries

Sabio said he did not want to divulge information about, and hamper the progress of, the cases the PCGG was handling because some members of the Senate were "adversaries" in the cases.

He also said his arrest was illegal in light of EO 1 which, he argued, was meant to protect the PCGG in the performance of its mandate of recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the late President Ferdinand Marcos and the latter's cronies.

"I do not wish to go there and testify and present evidence which will later on nullify and hamper efforts to recover ill-gotten wealth," he said.

He later referred to Sen. Edgardo Angara as the founder of a law firm involved in a case, and Gordon as a member, although he did not identify the law firm.

Angara founded the Accra law firm, which is involved in the coconut levy cases. Gordon is a former associate at the firm.

Sabio also said he believed that the rationale behind Section 4B of EO 1 "remains the same."

"The perpetrators of plunder and their associates are still here, they are investigating the PCGG in the Senate, they are trying to abolish the PCGG," he said.

Political, not legal

When asked about the opinion of former Senate President Jovito Salonga, the first chair of the PCGG, that Section 4B of EO 1 was not intended to justify the nonappearance of PCGG officials at the Senate, Sabio said: "I would not give any weight to the opinion."

He said the real intent of the provision should be seen in what was actually written.

He also said Salonga's statement, as well as that of former President Corazon Aquino who had issued a similar opinion, should not be given weight because the two were now fighting the present administration.

"For me, it's a political opinion, not a legal one," he said. Sabio said he would testify before the Senate if the members of the investigating committee were not involved in the PCGG cases.

Asked why he did not file a motion to inhibit lawmakers involved in PCGG cases from sitting in the committees, Sabio said he was not sure if they would not operate through others.

He said he knew they were smart.

He also said he was willing to appear before the Sandiganbayan and the Commission on Audit.

When Chief Justice Panganiban pointed out that former PCGG officials, including Supreme Court Justice Adolf Azcuna, had not invoked Section 4B of EO 1, Sabio said the Senate was friendlier to the past administration.

Solicitor General Nachura argued that the present Senate had failed to publish its rules governing inquiries, which meant that the public had not been properly informed of them.

Protecting the PCGG

Senator Arroyo told the high court that Section 4B of EO 1, which was issued shortly after Aquino came to power, was intended to protect the PCGG from the then still existing Batasang Pambansa.

The Batasan was deemed the rubber stamp of the Marcos regime.

But when the 1987 Constitution was ratified, the provision was nullified because it conflicted with the Charter's principles, he said.

"A provision of the 1987 Constitution provides that any incompatibility within the provisions of the Constitution with any existing law will naturally be repealed. So my respectful submission is that, with the ratification of the 1987 Constitution, EO 1 Section 4B was nullified," Arroyo said.

He said this was why no PCGG executives and commissioners had invoked the provision.

Arroyo also said that with the recent orders of the present administration, the Senate had been having a difficult time getting information.

"The fact is the Senate is a limping, damaged Senate. We cannot move; we cannot get answers," he said.

'Flawed' arguments

After listening to what he called Sabio's "flawed" arguments before the Supreme Court, Sen. Franklin Drilon said the PCGG chair should resign.

"If you pursue Chairman Sabio's argument that he cannot be questioned in any legislative division or inquiries, only God can question him. He can't be asked in a legislative, judicial or administrative investigation. He is only answerable to God," Drilon said in a statement.

According to Drilon, Sabio showed "incompetence in interpreting the law."

"From the way the questions were being raised by the justices, it would appear that [he] cannot even answer questions properly. I think Sabio is an incompetent chair of the PCGG. He should therefore submit his resignation to the President. He is an embarrassment to this administration," Drilon said.

SEN. Joker Arroyo reviews his notes before the start of the court proceedings. EDWIN BACASMAS

SOLICITOR General Eduardo Nachura talks with PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio before the start of the oral arguments at the Supreme Court. At center is Assistant Solicitor General John Emmanuel Madamba. EDWIN BACASMAS

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Securities and Exchange Commission has approved The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. (PSE), Rules on Backdoor Listings, along with the PSE Guidelines on the Comprehensive Corporate Disclosure for Backdoor Listings (Guidelines). The complete text of the PSE Rules on Backdoor Listings and Guidelines, which shall take effect on Sept. 28, 2006, can be viewed by the public in the PSE website at www.pse.com.ph.

-- The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc.

Thinking of you
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Finding Your Partner for Life

For Joel Olmedo, time is priceless. Together with his wife, Lara, he manages two gas service stations that are open 24 hours a day, making time a rare luxury, indeed. In addition to long working hours, which extend even to weekends, Joel and Lara live in a condo unit with their 12 year-old son, Billy, and take on household chores on their own. Living a fast-paced lifestyle, Joel depended on getting clean clothes from the Laundromat for almost ten years but when the return of the family's laundry became unreliable, they decided that it was the right time for their very own washing machine.

Like most consumers, Joel and Lara didn't have a brand in mind when they visited the appliance store but from their very first trip, they had singled out the Electrolux EW 880 F Frontload Washer, noticing off-hand its superior build. As a gadget and computer enthusiast, Joel surfed the net to learn more about the product finding positive user reviews and information to support his decision. "For the past ten years, I've always researched every gadget or appliance thoroughly before making a purchase" and with this, Joel distinguished the Electrolux Frontload as the fitting family washer.

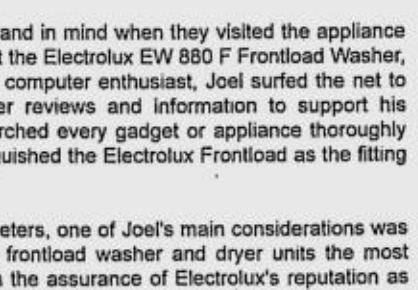
Given a laundry room size of less than ten square meters, one of Joel's main considerations was the washer's size, making the Electrolux stackable frontload washer and dryer units the most practical and ergonomical choice for his family. With the assurance of Electrolux's reputation as the company that "Thinks of You", Joel and Lara took this as a promise of making their lives better and more convenient. For them, getting a washer from a brand that thinks of consumers' needs means choosing a life-long companion that they can always rely on.

Today, the Olmedo family enjoys the total convenience that their new Electrolux Frontload Washer provides. Joel accounted, "I was surprised at how simple it really is because as far as simplicity is concerned, I don't think it can get any simpler." With a range of useful washing programs, Joel and Lara choose the setting that fits their needs. When it comes to their everyday clothes, they opt for the energy-saving Quick Wash selection, which cleans gently and maintains fabric quality.

In terms of the washer's cleaning power, Joel explained "To be honest, I didn't expect that the clothes would come out that clean. Here in the Philippines, most still have the mentality that hand washing is more effective but after using the frontload washer for the first week, I was pleasantly surprised that it was so convenient and so effective, even when it came to jeans."

Even with doing laundry three times a week, Joel saw a stable consumption of electricity, confirming Electrolux's commitment to making products that are truly economical. He admitted that "I wasn't really aware of the difference between the topload and the frontload but through research, I learned that the frontload is much more efficient."

During the search for their washer, the couple shared "We were looking for something that was hassle-free, compact in size and really just the latest in washer technology." And in choosing the Electrolux Frontload Washer, that's exactly what they got. Ultimately, Electrolux is a brand that seriously thinks about what consumers really want and need so that busy folks like Joel and Lara have time for the more important things in life.



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Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 21 ISSUE, a story on Page A2—"Noli, US envoy seeking end to human trafficking"—misspelled the name of the US ambassador to the Philippines. The US ambassador's name is Kristie Kenney—not Kenny.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the editor's note on the front-page timeline—"Fake ambush of Enrile ushered in martial law"—misstated the length of time covered by the chronology. The timeline outlined the sequence of events during the 24—not 48—hours preceding the formal declaration of martial law in 1972.

Also, Enrile at the time was living in Urdaneta Village, not Dasmariñas Village, in Makati.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

Chavez calls Bush ...

From page A1

The fiery speech on Wednesday by the leftist leader, one of Bush's staunchest critics abroad, was harsher in tone than that of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who attacked the US leader the previous day over Tehran's disputed nuclear program but avoided any personal insults.

"Yesterday, the devil came here," Chavez said, referring to Bush's address before the UN General Assembly on Tuesday. "Right here. Right here. And it smells of sulfur still today, this table that I am now standing in front of."

He then made the sign of the cross, brought his hands together as if in prayer and looked up at the ceiling.

In case no one was listening, Chavez continued: "Yesterday, ladies and gentlemen, from this rostrum, the president of the United States, the gentleman to whom I refer as the devil, came here, talking as if he owned the world. Truly. As the owner of the world."

Chavez's words drew tentative giggles at times from the audience, but also applause at the end of the speech and when he called Bush the devil—a word he used no fewer than eight times.

BUSH REUTERS

CHAVEZ AP

Rice not amused

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Chavez's remarks were "not becoming for a head of state."

"I am not going to dignify a comment by the Venezuelan president to the president of the United States," Rice told reporters in New York.

The main US seat in the assembly hall was empty as Chavez spoke, although US Ambassador John Bolton told The Associated Press that a "junior note-taker" was present, as is customary "when governments like that speak."

The address appeared to be one of Chavez's boldest moves yet to lead an alliance of countries firmly opposed to the Bush administration. The speech came after the leftist leader crisscrossed the globe this summer visiting like-minded nations from Iran to Belarus.

The Venezuelan leader has become Latin America's leading voice against the US government, and his speech was reminiscent of crusading addresses by his mentor Fidel Castro of Cuba and the late Argentine revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

In his 23-minute address, Chavez also called Bush a "spokesman of imperialism" who was trying "to preserve the current pattern of domination, exploitation and pillage of the peoples of the world."

'The Devil's Recipe'

"An Alfred Hitchcock movie could use it as a scenario. I would even propose a title: 'The Devil's Recipe,'" Chavez said.

He accused the United States of planning and financing a failed 2002 coup against him, a charge that Washington has denied.

Chavez added that the United States was also trying to impose its vision of democracy militarily in countries, like Iran and Iraq.

"We appeal to the people of the United States and the world to halt this threat, which is like a sword hanging over our head," he said. "The imperialists see extremists everywhere. It's not that we are extremists. It's that the world is waking up."

At the start of his talk, Chavez held up a book by American writer Noam Chomsky, "Hegemony or Survival: America's Quest for Global Dominance," and recommended it to everyone in the General Assembly, as well as to the American people.

"The people of the United States should read this ... instead of watching Superman movies," Chavez later told reporters.

Madness

The Venezuelan leader called US consumerism "madness," saying Americans have wasteful habits in using oil and energy. He held up a satellite photo showing the world at night, with bright light emanating from the United States and other wealthy countries.

Consuming less should be an environmental priority, he said, "instead of looking for oil" through the war in Iraq.

The United States continues to be the top buyer of Venezuelan oil, bringing the South American country billions of dollars in earnings that help fund Chavez's popular social programs.

Accusing Bush of neglecting the poor, Chavez started last winter a program for Venezuela's US-based oil company Citgo to sell discounted heating oil to poor American families. Citgo distributed more than 40 million gallons of oil last winter to low-income Americans, and Chavez announced a doubling of that this winter.

The Venezuelan leader also lambasted the US government for trying to block Venezuela's campaign for a seat in the UN Security Council. If chosen over the US favorite—Guatemala—in a secret-ballot UN vote next month, Venezuela would be "the voice of the Third World," he said.

The council currently consists of five permanent members with veto power—the United States, Britain, Russia, China and France—and 10 nonpermanent members who serve two-year terms and have no power to veto resolutions.

Disruptive force

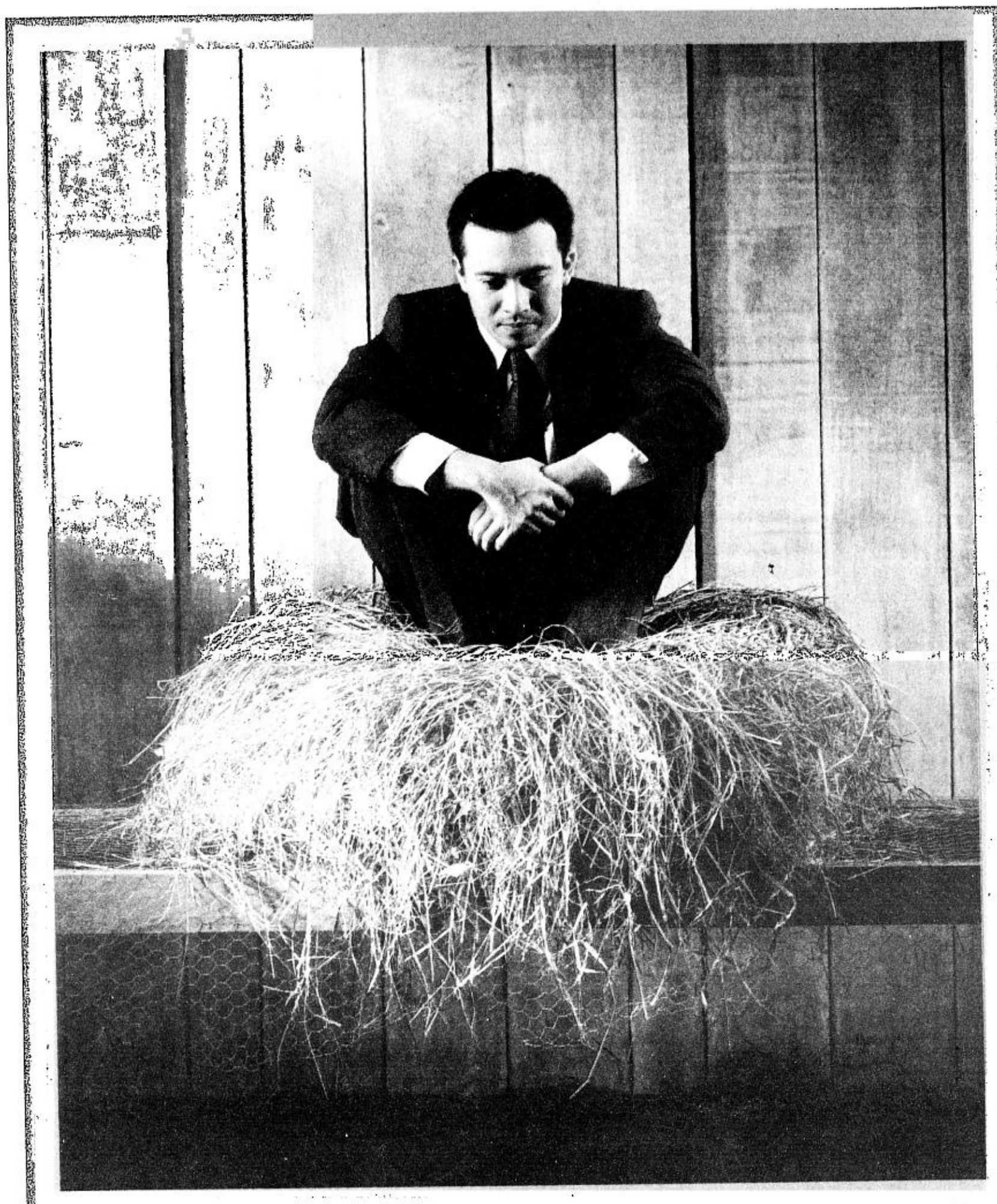
The United States has argued that Venezuela—closely allied with Iran, Syria and Cuba—would be a disruptive force. The campaign for a UN seat is shaping up to be a formidable diplomatic test for Chavez, gauging his ability to lobby head-to-head against the United States.

Chavez said the United Nations in its current system "doesn't work" and is "antidemocratic."

He called for the world body to be overhauled, saying the US government's "immoral veto" had allowed recent Israeli bombings of Lebanon to continue unabated for more than a month. *AP*

Yehey! Satur goes hi-tech with online presscon

By Erwin Oliva
INQ7.net



HIS RIGHT TO FREELY EXPRESS HIMSELF AS a journalist and a Filipino citizen was curtailed 34 years ago when martial law was declared.

But on Thursday, House of Representatives Deputy Minority Leader and Bayan Muna Representative Satur Ocampo was in front of an Apple laptop computer, leading his first Internet-based chat and press conference. Ocampo answered questions from several members of the local and international media, including New York-based Filipino feminist and writer Ninotchka Rosca.

Held at the office of Philippine-based Internet portal Yehey.com, Ocampo with the help of several moderators discussed the increasing role of technology and the Internet in ensuring democracy.

"The timing of this chat is appropriate as we recall the declaration of martial law 34 years ago at a time when we have been having this feeling that martial law has not left our political life," Ocampo said.

Asked how he feels about using technology to freely express his political and personal thoughts, Ocampo said: "The feeling is great that we have a medium through which we can communicate freely and fast. During martial law, the regular press was curtailed and guided, so we took recourse to an alternative underground press to assert our freedom of expression."

More access

Ocampo said Bayan Muna and other progressive political parties now have more access to mainstream media but the Internet provides them an "alternative" venue to reach out to more people.

He started writing for a web log (blog), an online journal called "Batasan6," on March 2006, when he and four other party-list representatives were holed up in Congress as police threatened to arrest them following the declaration of a state of national emergency in late February. Five of them were placed under the "protective custody" of Congress. The sixth, Anakpawis Representative Crispin Beltran, was arrested and remains in government custody.

"I welcome this new medium since it affords me a chance to reach others I may not normally be able to reach. My first stint at blogging was exhilarating, at a time the Batasan 5 were thrown into some sort of a hole from which we had to struggle out of (sic)," Ocampo said.

Ocampo then quickly corrected himself. "My last sentence is awkward, I need to edit myself," he wrote.

He acknowledged that technology will play a crucial role in helping safeguard democracy in the Philippines.

"Maybe some journalists may feel unencumbered in using the new technology, but the more essential thing in journalism is how freely can we reach the widest public, and to what extent the public can express its views through the media," he added.

He said that while he himself is not adept with new technology, he believes the Internet is a tool that the technologically savvy can use to overcome any attempt at curtailing our freedom.

Ocampo added that "tri-media" has become more accessible to the Left in recent years.

Tit-for-tat

"The tit-for-tat with our political adversaries is livelier with the wider media coverage," he continued.

He also discussed the recent military takeover in Thailand, and pointed out that the Philippines and Thailand have different political dynamics and historical experiences.

"But what must be noted is that the problems that plagued (ousted Thai prime minister) Thaksin (Shinawatra) are the same as those facing the beleaguered President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: The issue of legitimacy, corruption and political repression. But the resolution of these issues must not be entrusted to the military, the dominant section of which is embroiled with (Arroyo's) sins against the people," he said.

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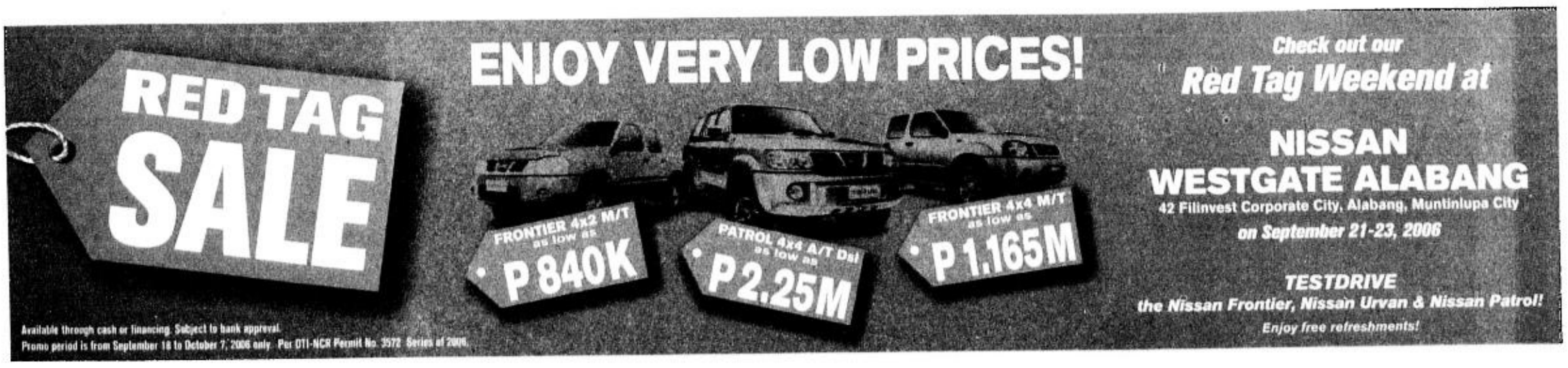

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Per DTI No. A3-0704 Series of 2006

Thailand helps RP fight dengue spread

By Jerome Aning

DESPITE THE UNCERTAIN SECURITY SITUATION in Bangkok because of the recent coup d'etat, Thailand has extended assistance to the Philippines to stop the spread of dengue fever.

According to Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, Thailand's Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Services has, through the World Health Organization, agreed to provide the country with polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing kits which detect dengue faster.

The WHO, which has been helping the health department in the fight against dengue, has also ordered extra supplies of larvicide and will be training doctors in all regions in dengue management.

It has promised to help the DOH in implementing a community mobilization program against dengue and will fund the printing of 10,000 copies of dengue information materials.

Results from PCR testing can be obtained in just a few minutes, in contrast to the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELIZA) technology now being used by the DOH whose results may be obtained only after several weeks.

Duque, however, noted that PCR works best only during the early states of the disease, and even if it can detect new strains, it cannot treat dengue.

PCR and ELIZA act only as confirmatory tests for dengue, he stressed.

Dr. Jean Marc Olive, the WHO country representative, said WHO has also ordered supplies of Abate, a larvicide that can be added to drinking water to kill off mosquito larvae or wrigglers.

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Insurance firms told to hike capital

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED LIFE AND non-life insurance companies to increase their capitalization by a minimum of P25 million every year until 2011, shrugging off complaints the move would be detrimental to the industry and be disadvantageous to insurance plan holders.

The Department of Finance, with Department Order No. 27-26, mandated the increase of the capitalization requirement of Filipino-owned life and non-life insurance firms to P75 million from the current P50 million on Dec. 31, 2007. This means companies whose capitalization will fall short of the required amount will not be allowed to continue operating.

Under the order, the capitalization requirement will be increased further to P100 million in December 2008, to P125 million in December 2009, to P175 million in December 2010 and P250 million in December 2011.

Partly foreign-owned insurance firms will be required to increase their capitalization by a bigger amount.

Those with foreign equity of 40 percent or less must raise their capital to P150 million in December next year until this reaches P300 million in December 2010.

Those with foreign equity of between 40 and 60 percent will have to increase their capitalization to P200 million in December 2007 until this reaches P350 million by December 2010.

Insurance firms with more than 60-percent foreign equity will be required to have capitalization of at least P300 million by December 2007 until this reaches P500 million by December 2010.

The DOF said the increase in capitalization would bring the local insurance industry up to par with that in neighboring countries.

Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo said the move was expected to boost public confidence in insurance products given the increased financial strength of the insurance firms.

Improving confidence in the insurance industry has become necessary, especially in light of the liquidity problems being experienced by the educational pre-need industry. The failure of some pre-need firms to pay the tuition of their plan holders has affected the sale of other insurance products.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 22, 2006
24th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 15:12-20

Gospel: Luke 8:1-3

Jesus walked through towns and countryside, preaching and giving the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve followed him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases: Mary called Magdalene, who had been freed of seven demons; Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod's steward; Suzanna and others who provided for them out of their own funds.

Commentary

We stake our lives and our dying on the resurrection of Jesus, and we are committed publicly to being witnesses to this truth in the face of the world's choices based on so much death. In baptism we died with Christ and rose with Christ and now live with Christ in God. Our lives are seeped in resurrection if we live in God. And we belong to the company of resurrection, those called by Jesus to be known together as followers: twelve named men and, in this reading, three named women disciples: Mary of Magdala, Joanna, Suzanna. But there are others who made choices based on the truth of the resurrection.

Who do we provide for out of our own resources, and are we among those who follow, named or anonymous?

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Imelda wants travel bond reduced by half

By Norman Bordadora

IMELDA MARCOS, THE WIDOW OF THE LATE dictator Ferdinand Marcos, has asked the Sandiganbayan hearing one of several ill-gotten wealth cases against her, to reduce her P630,000 travel bond by half.

In a motion to the Fifth Division, the former First Lady argued that P300,000 was the "usual total amount required in this jurisdiction for the travel abroad of an accused."

Imelda made the pleading on Sept. 21, the date when her husband declared martial law and suspended civil rights 34 years ago in 1972.

The P630,000 bond is one of several court-ordered requirements that Imelda has to meet before she can be allowed to travel to Hong Kong to seek treatment for her hips and knees.

Imelda earlier this year put up the bond but withdrew the funds in March, saying she would donate the amount to the victims of the landslide in Ginsaugon, Southern Leyte.

The case before the Fifth Division is just one of several brought against the Marcos family by the government to recover government assets that Marcos, his family and associates allegedly stole.

In the case in question, Imelda is charged with having had a financial interest in a private firm while serving as minister in her husband's Cabinet in the early 1980s.

Earlier this month, the court refused to give Imelda a travel permit after it was confirmed that the P630,000 travel bond had been withdrawn in March.

On top of that, it was also discovered that there was no record of her being arraigned on one of the 11 criminal cases against her before the Sandiganbayan.

Last week, Imelda was again arraigned and pleaded not guilty in Criminal Case No. 19225, filed by the Ombudsman on June 3, 1993 but for which no records of arraignment could be found.

Under the rules of court, an accused in a criminal case can only be allowed to travel abroad after his or her arraignment.

She has yet to come up with the travel bond.

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'Twas consensual sex, US Marine tells court

From page A1

Benjamin Pozon of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139, Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood said Nicole and Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith had consensual sex, corroborating Smith's testimony and bolstering the claim of the defense that no crime occurred inside the moving van.

"Based on what you saw from your peripheral vision, was the lovemaking between [Smith and Nicole] consensual?" Pozon asked.

"Definitely, Your Honor," said Silkwood, who had told the court earlier that he "observed movement" in the back seat of the van out of the corner of his eye but did not actually see what was going on.

When the judge asked if he heard Nicole scream or saw her "kicking, punching or doing anything physical" to push Smith away, the 23-year-old Silkwood said: "I didn't notice anything [of] that sort, Your Honor."

Under direct examination by his lawyer, Jose Justiniano, Silkwood also said nothing beyond the normal went on between Smith and Nicole inside the van.

"I could tell they were kissing, being flirtatious and kinda making out ... mainly 'cause I could hear what was going on. I could hear them kissing and kinda giggling, that kinda thing," he said.

Asked why he did not do anything about it, Silkwood said: "It seemed like normal lovemaking, I guess I could call it ... It was none of my business, and there was no sign of anything abnormal."

No conspiracy

Nicole was not in court. She has been boycotting the hearings since she and her mother walked out of the courtroom on Friday last week, complaining about the "incompetence" of the public prosecutors.

Silkwood denied Nicole's claim that he, Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis and a superior officer, Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier, had conspired with Smith to commit rape by egging on their comrade.

He said Duplantis, who was seated beside him in the van's middle row, was very drunk at the time and "wasn't doing much ... mostly just putting his head down." Carpentier, for his part, was just seated in the front passenger seat.

Silkwood also claimed to have heard Nicole's remarks while she was with Smith in the back seat, backing the latter's testimony that the complainant was coherent while inside the vehicle. (The prosecution's stand is that Nicole was too drunk to have consented to sex.)

He said that during a stop at a pizza place halfway through the ride to their docked ship, the USS Essex, he heard Smith tell Nicole that he (Smith) "was not gonna have time to finish."

He then reiterated what Smith had related as the first defense witness: "I heard his companion (Nicole) say, 'Are you done already?' And I think after that, he (Smith) continued explaining that there was no more time. I just quit paying attention, quit listening after that."

Liberty buddies

Supporting the earlier testimony of Smith and Carpentier, Silkwood said he left the USS Essex at around 1 p.m. on Nov. 1, 2005, for "liberty" (the time awarded to servicemen for rest and recreation).

He said he disembarked with the 21-year-old Smith as his liberty buddy, and explained that while off the ship, buddies should stay together "at all times and kinda watch out for each other."

Just as Smith had told the court, Silkwood said they first stopped at a souvenir market, which was about a 15-minute walk from the ship.

They wanted to get cash from the automated teller machines nearby but the ATMs were off-line, he said.

They proceeded to a casino where, as they had heard, they could get some money.

Gambling, drinking

This was how Silkwood recounted how the rest of the day went:

After getting some cash, he and Smith found the casino crowded. They walked to another casino right across from the one they had just left.

There, he "gambled, drank and listened to music."

At around 7 p.m., Silkwood and the rest of his company—Smith, Duplantis, Cpl. Corey Burris and Lance Cpl. Albert Lara—left the casino for a bar called Dewey's, where they stayed and had drinks for around two-and-a-half to three hours.

Between 9:30 and 10 p.m., the group went to the Neptune Club, a nightspot that "had lots of people, with dancing lights and music."

US MARINE Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood testifies at the rape trial in Makati City on Thursday. STEPH BRAVO

It's a difficult case, says US ambassador

By Christine O. Avendano

US AMBASSADOR KRISTIE Kenney yesterday conceded that the Subic rape case was "a difficult case" and "emotional for everyone."

"We're looking forward to seeing justice served," Kenney told reporters at the inauguration in Marikina City of a branch of a US-based call center.

She declined further comment on the trial, saying it would not be appropriate.

"We're really focused now on complying to make sure the case goes as smoothly as possible and on the need to show compassion for all the families [concerned]," she said.

Asked to comment on an earlier claim by Nicole's mother that the rape case might be "traded off" with the case involving former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante in the United States, Kenney said there was "simply no connection" between the two.

"One is a case being tried for violation of US laws ... and another is a case concerning an incident that happened in the Philippines and is being tried in the Philippines," she said.

By 11:30 p.m., Carpentier had arrived and instructed him to round up the Marines inside the Neptune. (As a platoon superior, Carpentier had the duty to ensure that the younger Marines were back at the ship by their midnight curfew.)

'Kinda flirting'

"I started to look for Marines and gathered them up. I found Duplantis, Smith and a couple of others ... [Smith] had a Filipino female on his lap. They were kinda flirting, just talking," Silkwood said.

Shortly afterward, he said, the group left the bar and proceeded to the van waiting outside.

Silkwood said Carpentier left the place first, followed by himself, and then Duplantis. Smith was "really close behind" him with the same Filipino woman, whom he later confirmed to be the complainant.

Just as Smith and Carpentier had said in court, Silkwood said the group waited a while for the Filipino driver, Timoteo Soriano Jr., to unlock the van.

Smith then pulled the sliding door open, and Nicole stepped inside the vehicle, Silkwood said.

He said Smith followed the complainant to the back seat, after which he got in and occupied the left side of the second row.

Duplantis followed and sat beside him.

While he did not see at what point Carpentier got in, Silkwood said their superior took the front passenger seat.

Last stop

At the pier, Silkwood said Duplantis got off first, then himself, and then Smith.

He said the last one out was Nicole, who stepped off the vehicle with some assistance from Smith because she had her pants still pulled down at mid-thigh.

His testimony rebutted for the third time the narration of prosecution witness Joseph Khonghun, who said he saw Nicole being offloaded by two Caucasians (Smith and Silkwood) "like a pig." (Carpentier and Smith earlier countered this testimony).

Just as Carpentier had testified, Silkwood said the van's last stop was the main walkway to the ship which was well-lit, with many people passing through it.

He estimated that between 20 and 25 people passed through the walkway, and that none of them took notice of Nicole as she sat on the curb.

Silkwood said that while he had only four beers and was not drunk, he could not remember clearly if it was he who had yelled at Nicole the line that purportedly made her hysterical: "You and your bitch get outta here."

"I am not sure if it was me. It could've been me, but I'm not sure, Your Honor," Silkwood told Judge Pozon.

Inconsistencies

During cross-examination, Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos pointed out what she said were inconsistencies in Silkwood's statement to US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) agent Bruce Warshawsky in his Nov. 25, 2005, counter-affidavit submitted during the preliminary investigation of the case and his testimony in court.

"There were many inconsistencies, many omissions, and they were very obvious ... [They will] strengthen the prosecution evidence. And we're just too glad to have been able to show that to the court ... Records of the court would show that he was lying," said the chair of the public prosecution panel.

De los Santos, who was cross-examining a defense witness for the first time, noted that Silkwood did not mention in his counter-affidavit and in his court narration what he had told Warshawsky on Nov. 5, 2005, during an interview at the Mandarin Oriental hotel in Makati City.

She quoted Silkwood's statement to the NCIS where he related that when the van stopped at the pizza place, Lance Cpl. Albert Lara and Cpl. Corey Burris opened the sliding door and saw Smith having sex in the back seat.

The two purportedly said: "Oh my gosh, this is happening?"

Asked why he did not include this detail in his statement, Silkwood replied: "It was not intentional. It's not important."

Lying

De los Santos accused Silkwood of lying, and reminded him of the importance of making statements under oath.

Silkwood replied: "There are no lies in there, ma'am. That's the truth."

Justiniano, however, said he believed that inconsistencies were "to be expected" of any witness.

"If the testimony of a witness is 100 percent in accord with his statement, that means it's doubtful, that he was coached. It's even a sign that the witness is telling the truth, and there are even Supreme Court decisions that state that it is natural, that there are things you would forget."

When Pozon asked Silkwood why he thought Nicole would file a rape case against him and his colleagues, he could only make a guess: "I am not totally sure. It might have been about the 'bitch' comment..."

Pozon: "Just because of that, she would cry rape against you?"

Silkwood: "Maybe somehow she was put in a situation where it was easiest for her, the easiest way out of it ... Because people did approach her and she was embarrassed."

Silkwood's answer echoed Carpentier's reply to the same question.

Carpentier had told the court that Nicole filed the charges because she decided to go along with what people thought had happened inside the van upon seeing her distraught, her pants pulled down to her knees, and a used condom dangling from her panties.

GMA calls for swift return ...

From page A1

would be immediately restored in Thailand was US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, who joined Ms Arroyo at the inauguration of a call center put up by the American firm, ICT Group, in Marikina City yesterday.

'Very disappointed'

Kenney said the US government was "very disappointed" with the military takeover in Thailand and said this was "not good" for the Thai people and its economy.

"There's nothing that attracts like what we're seeing here better than knowing you have a functioning democracy, where your systems work, where people can have faith in their government—and that attracts investments," the US ambassador said.

Kenney said one of the reasons the Philippines was reaping investments was because "people are impressed with the Philippine commitment to democracy, peace and economic growth."

"When you see a military coup, it's not a kind of thing that encourages investment," she said.

Kenney said the US government might end up stopping some of its assistance to Thailand.

"When there is a military coup, our laws really dictate what form of assistance we must stop," she said.

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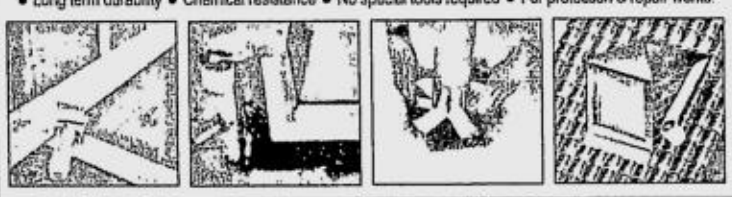

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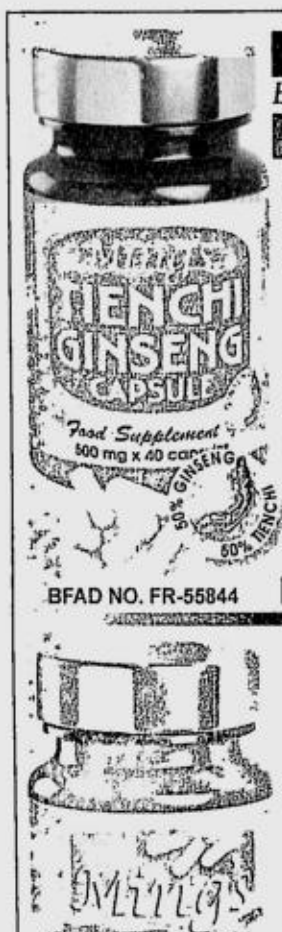

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Pinoys win 39 cases vs Lebanese

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE GOVERNMENT HAS WON 39 OF 212 CASes against Lebanese employers which were filed in behalf of Filipino workers repatriated from Lebanon at the height of the Israeli-Hezbollah war last month, Vice President Noli de Castro said yesterday.

De Castro, presidential adviser on Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and chair of Task Force Lebanon, said the cases were being argued by government lawyers and at least three Lebanese lawyers hired by the government after the task force put up a Lebanon complaint desk in Manila.

De Castro said success in the civil suits against erring Lebanese employers had resulted in the payment of back wages and other monetary benefits due the OFWs totaling P241,000.

Citing a briefing paper submitted to him by Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, De Castro said that 162 cases were still on the docks while 17 more had been endorsed to the POEA Adjudication Office.

The POEA's Special Legal Claim Unit said that five Lebanese employers had also been blacklisted.

"The Lebanese lawyers are doing a good job in helping our OFWs collect their wages and pursue disciplinary actions against abusive employers. We will see to it that all the cases filed will result in a decision in favor of our workers," De Castro said.

A total of 6,562 OFWs have been repatriated to the Philippines from Lebanon as of Sept. 11.

De Castro said that at least 50 percent of those repatriated complained of unfair treatment by their Lebanese employers.

De Castro said OFWs in Lebanon were still being repatriated despite the scheduled withdrawal this week of the Israeli military from Lebanon under a UN-administered ceasefire agreement.

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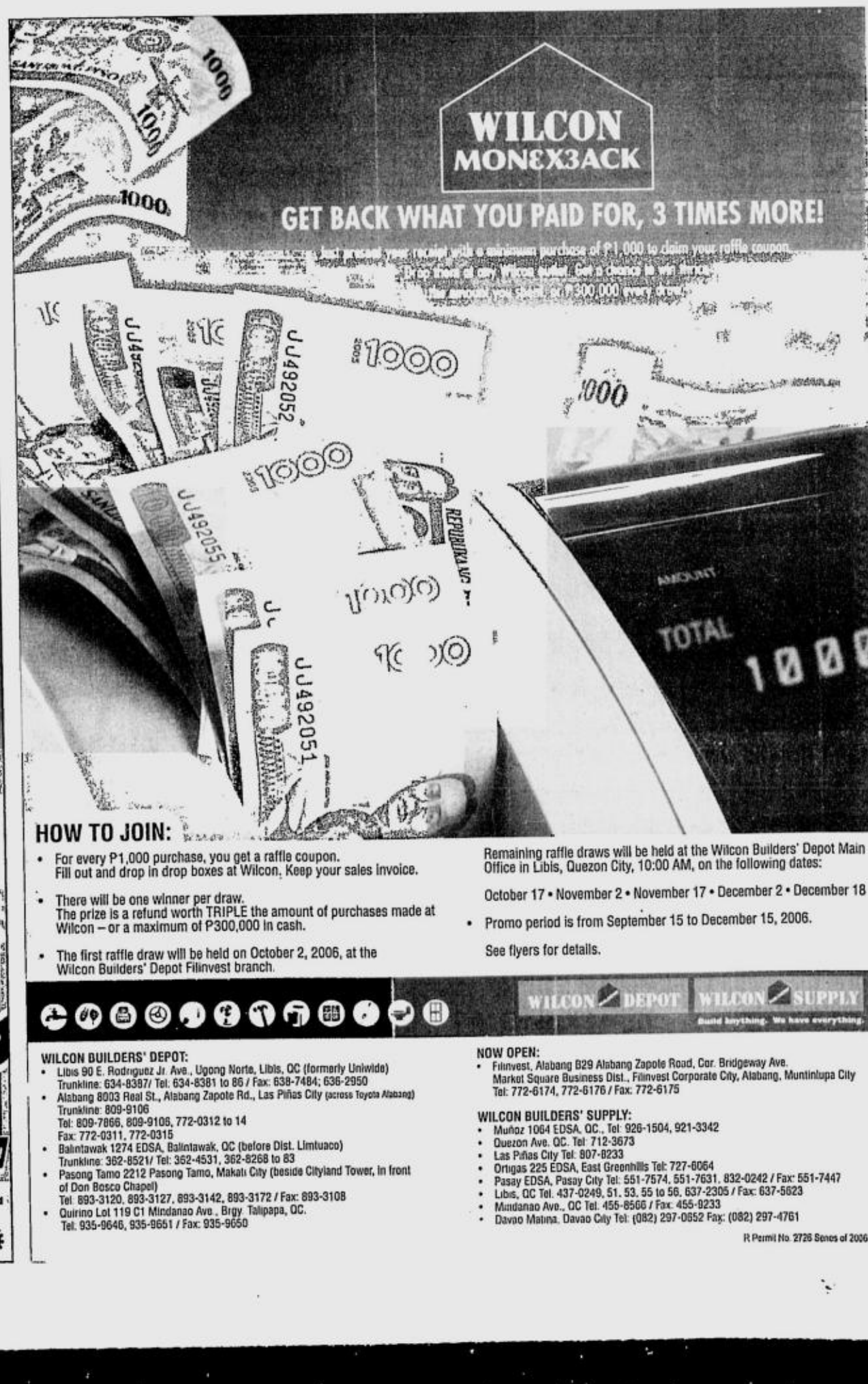
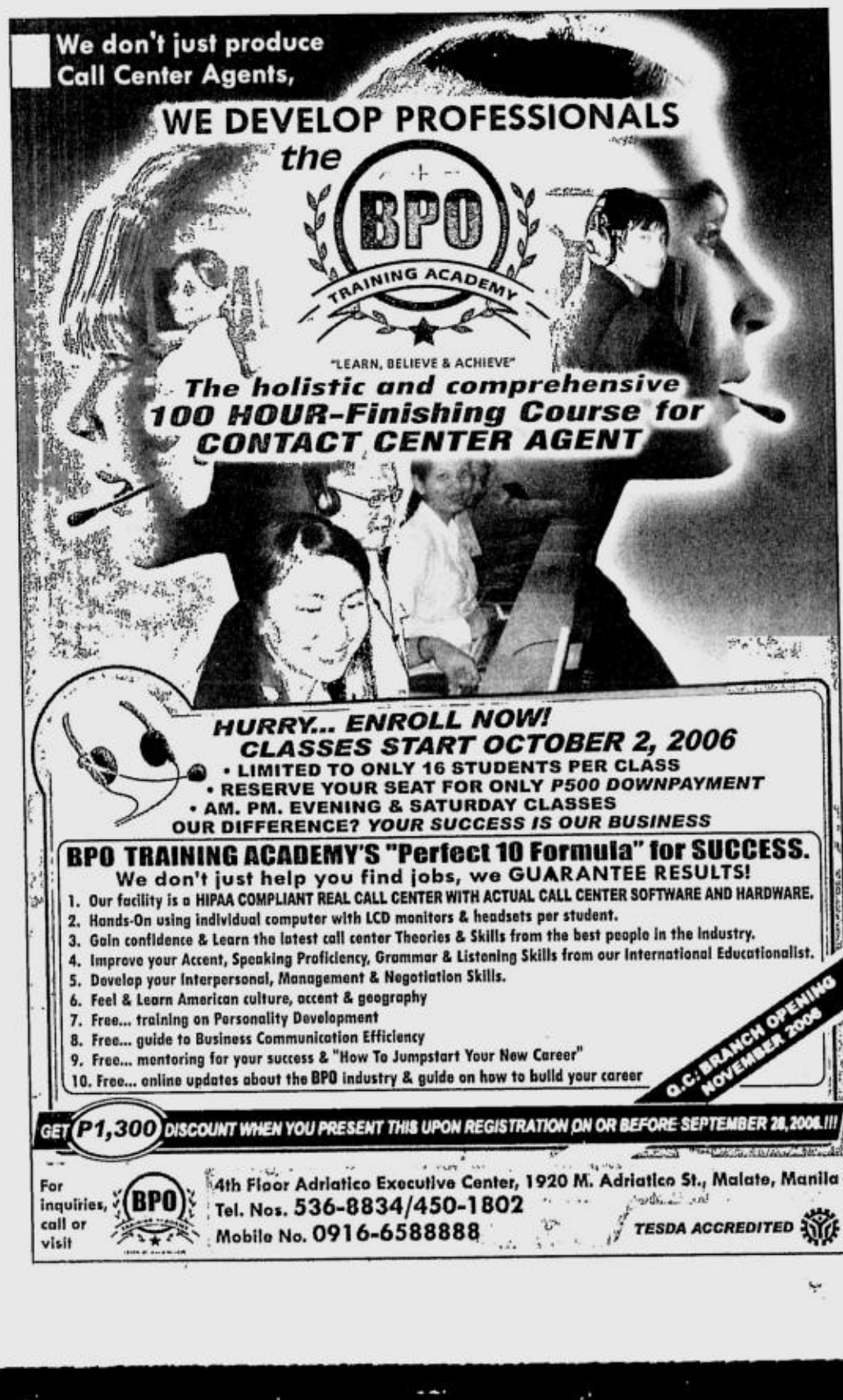




PHILIPPINE DAIL

King backs coup; junta gags media

From page A1

widely revered in Thailand," said political scientist Thitinan Pongsudhirak of Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University.

"Hence the legitimacy, the acceptability and the relative calm in Bangkok."

The generals who sent tanks rumbling through Bangkok's streets this week have said they acted in the defense of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, at 78 the world's longest serving monarch.

Yellow armbands

Army Commander in Chief Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin, whose soldiers wore yellow armbands signifying their loyalty to the king, said the monarch had endorsed the interim military council that toppled the divisive Thaksin.

Sondhi and other generals met with the monarch immediately after the coup. To reassure the public after the ouster of Thaksin, whom they accused of corruption and abuse of power, the generals took over TV stations and broadcast footage of the king all night.

"I'm sure Sondhi was confident that the palace would go along with whatever he did," said Paul Handley, a Washington-based journalist and author of the biography "The King Never Smiles."

A military officer involved in the coup, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Prem Tinsulanonda, a former premier and head of the king's advisory council, supported the coup, a belief some Western diplomats shared.

Coup rumors had been flying in Bangkok ever since Prem twice told Thai troops in July that their first loyalty was to the king.

'Troops answer to king'

"He said basically that the troops answer to the king and not to prime ministers and that these political leaders were temporary and the palace was permanent," said Handley.

"If Prem is making those statements and the military has been basically sending warnings to the prime minister, to me it's clear that the palace at least signaled its acceptance of a possible coup."

At the very least, many observers read the royal silence so far as tacit approval for the coup leaders, who have vowed to install a civilian prime minister within two weeks and stage elections in a year.

King Bhumibol, known fully as "Strength of the Land—Incomparable Power," has few official powers yet wields a degree of influence in the Buddhist country that sometimes baffles foreigners.

The image of the king graces every house, office and shop in Thailand; the royal anthem is played twice daily, stopping the country in its tracks, and the royal color yellow is worn widely and with pride.

The monarch has lived through 15 constitutions and at least as many coups, intervening only occasionally but to great effect—most famously when he ended street violence in 1992 with the two antagonists kneeling at his feet.

Thaksin in London

Thaksin, now in London after arriving from New York, where he was at the UN General Assembly when the coup was staged on Tuesday, appeared to accept his fate.

"I was prime minister when I came, and I was jobless on the way back," the Thai News Agency quoted him as telling reporters traveling with him. "I volunteered to work for the country, but if they don't want me to do that, I won't."

Thaksin was welcome to return home to Thailand, coup leaders said. But the police chief made it clear he would have to face charges already filed, including charges of election fraud.

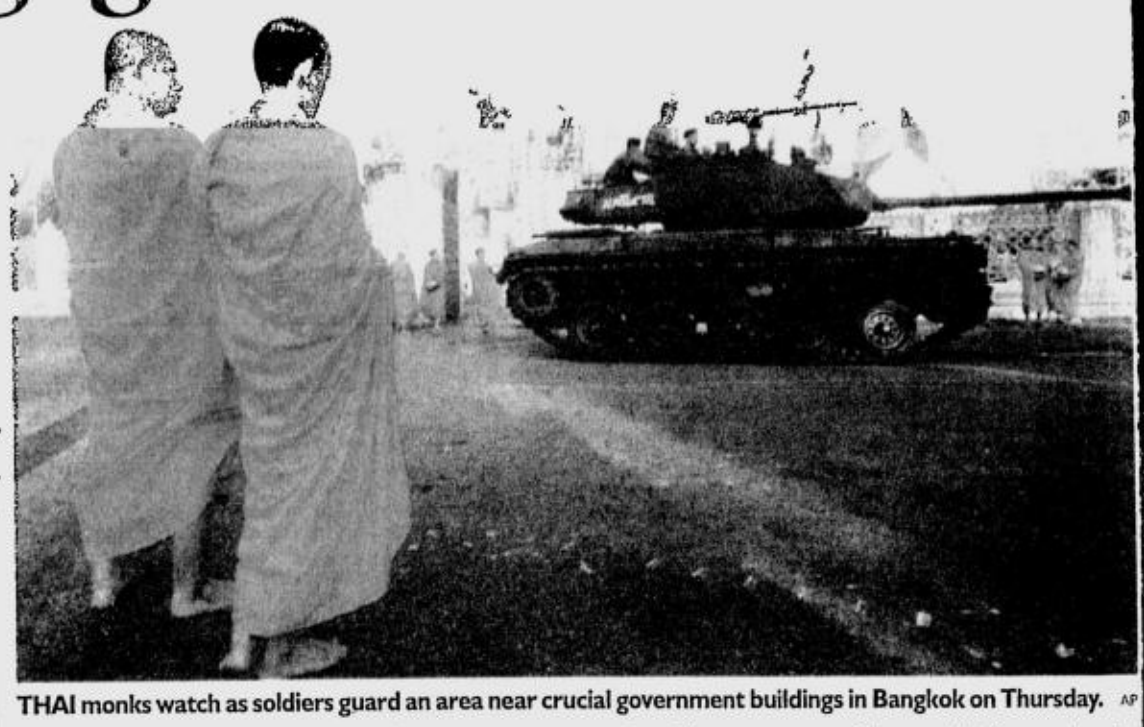
The politically wise, however, are not ruling Thaksin out of the game.

He doesn't like to lose

"This is not a man who likes to lose," Thitinan Pongsudhirak of Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University told reporters. "Thaksin's support runs deep."

"If there's an election supervised by the UN, Thaksin and Thai Rak Thai would win, and that's a problem for Thailand," he said, referring to Thaksin's political party, which translates as Thais Love Thais.

Thaksin does not appear to have lost support in the countryside which swept him to two election landslide victories and made him Thailand's longest-serving elected prime minister.



THAI monks watch as soldiers guard an area near crucial government buildings in Bangkok on Thursday. AP

Dao Khempanya, a 65-year-old farmer in the paddy fields and coconut groves of Nonthaburi, 50 km west of Bangkok, said the coup was the best way to end political strife in a society that values harmony and abhors conflict.

But Dao's devotion to Thaksin was undiminished.

"Please come back, Mr. Thaksin, and we'll reelect you," he said with a toothy grin.

Economic fears ease

Fears for the Thai economy eased as calm prevailed and coup leaders set out the timetable for return to civilian rule, although Morgan Stanley cut its annual economic growth forecast for the second half of the year to 2.4 percent from 3.5 percent.

Thai stocks dropped some 4 percent on reopening on Thursday but soon recovered as foreign investors picked up what they considered cheap shares from retail investors not wanting to carry the risk.

The market was down around 1 percent, a far less precipitous drop than feared in the immediate aftermath of the coup, when credit ratings firms had warned of possible downgrades.

The markets received some reassurance from a royal proclamation legitimizing the military government. That was a "positive development;" ABN AMRO Bank strategist Shahab Jalinoos said in a note to clients.

Moody's Investor Service reaffirmed Thailand's ratings and stable outlook on Thursday and the Thai baht was steady in early trade after shedding nearly 2 percent on Tuesday.

Election in a year

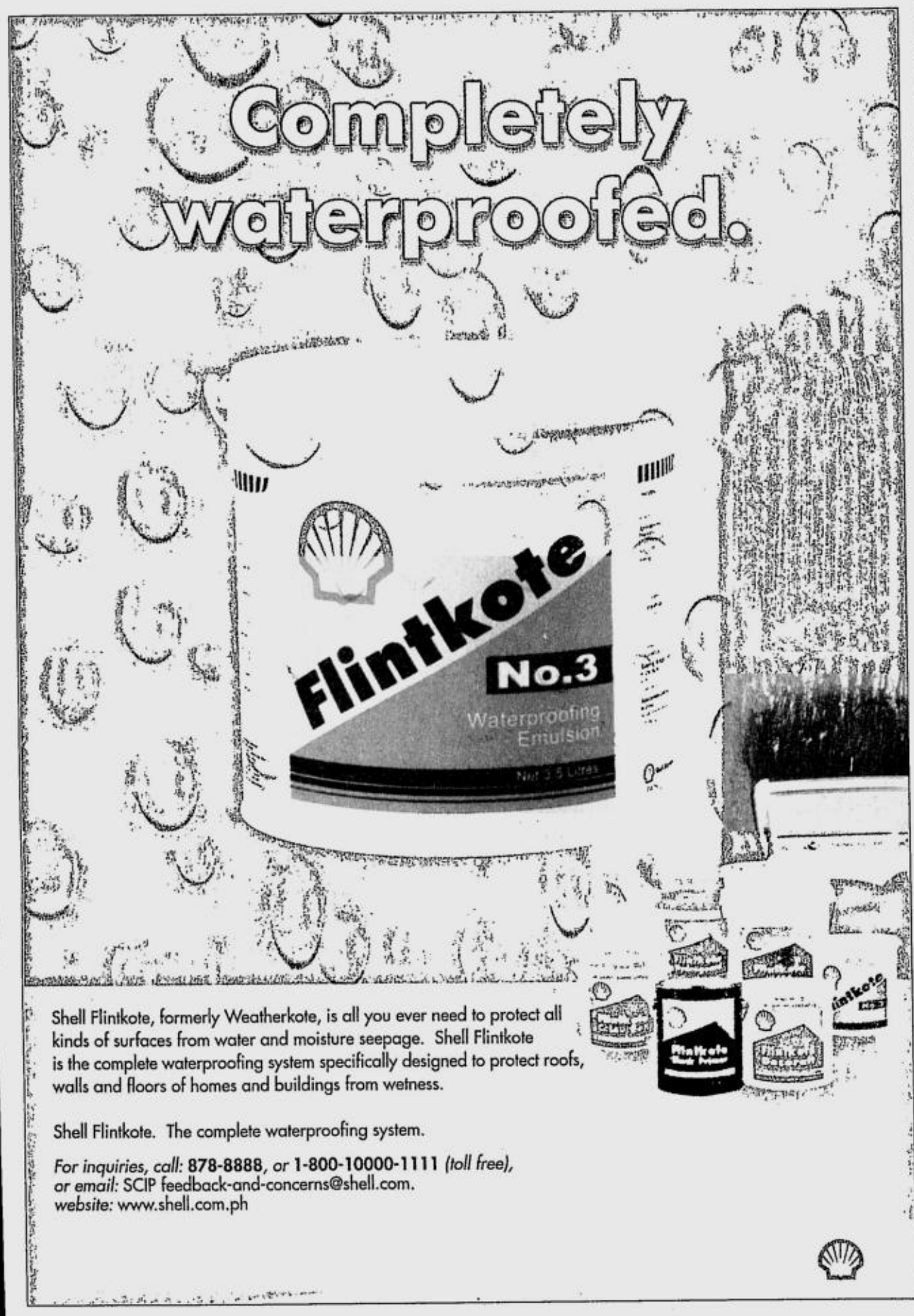
The coup leaders said they would craft within a year a constitution to repair flaws Thaksin was accused of exploiting to wield near-dictatorial powers, then hold an election.

"We have two weeks. After two weeks, we step out," said Sondhi. "It will take a year to draft a new constitution."

In the meantime, Thailand was technically still under martial law. The military on Wednesday issued orders banning political gatherings of more than five people and restricting information critical of the coup from being distributed on the Internet and scrolled on television programs.

The United States said there was no justification for the coup, but pointedly did not demand that Thaksin be returned to power and instead urged a swift return to democracy.

"We're disappointed in the coup. We hope that those who mounted it will make good swiftly on their promises to restore democracy," White House spokesperson Tony Snow said. *Reports from AFP, Reuters and AP*



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Sunken tanker still leaking oil into Guimaras waters

By Blanche S. Rivera

MORE THAN A MONTH AFTER A TANKER carrying 2 million liters of oil sank off Guimaras, officials have monitored continuous leaking of bunker fuel oil into the waters of Guimaras.

The latest report of Task Force Solar I Oil Spill (TF SOS) also revealed that aside from some 1,500 hectares of coral reefs and 478 hectares of mangroves affected outside the Taclong marine reserve, 806 hectares of fish ponds have also been adversely affected by the spill.

"Result from monitoring shows a continuing minimal rate of oil that comes out from the source," the task force report dated Sept. 19 said.

"Continuous surveillance, containment, recovery and cleanup operations are being undertaken by the members of the Task Force SOS," it said. There was no data on the volume of oil that was still coming out.

Science Undersecretary Graciano Yumul said Japanese vessel Shin Sei Maru, which was used to check the condition of the sunken tanker, had already sealed off the valves that should prevent the leakage of oil from the source until the vessel is recovered in the next six months.

He said up to 1.3 million liters of the 2.1 million liters may have come out from the tanker already since it sank on rough seas on Aug. 11.

UP Visayas biologist Resurreccion Sadaba said that as long as the tanker remained underwater, it would continue to pose a threat to the marine life in Guimaras.

"They have to remove the tanker as soon as possible; otherwise, it will remain a threat," Sadaba said in a forum in UP Diliman.

After cleaning up a total of 215 km of coastline, collectors hired by Petron Corp. have gathered 1,633.73 metric tons of oil debris from the affected barangays in Guimaras and another 17.4 tons from Iloilo.

The task force said 95,819 sacks of oil-contaminated debris have been brought to the Cabalagnan Wharf for shipping to Iligan City where the oil debris are used as fuel by the Holsim Cement plant. Around 500 tons have been shipped as of Sept. 19.

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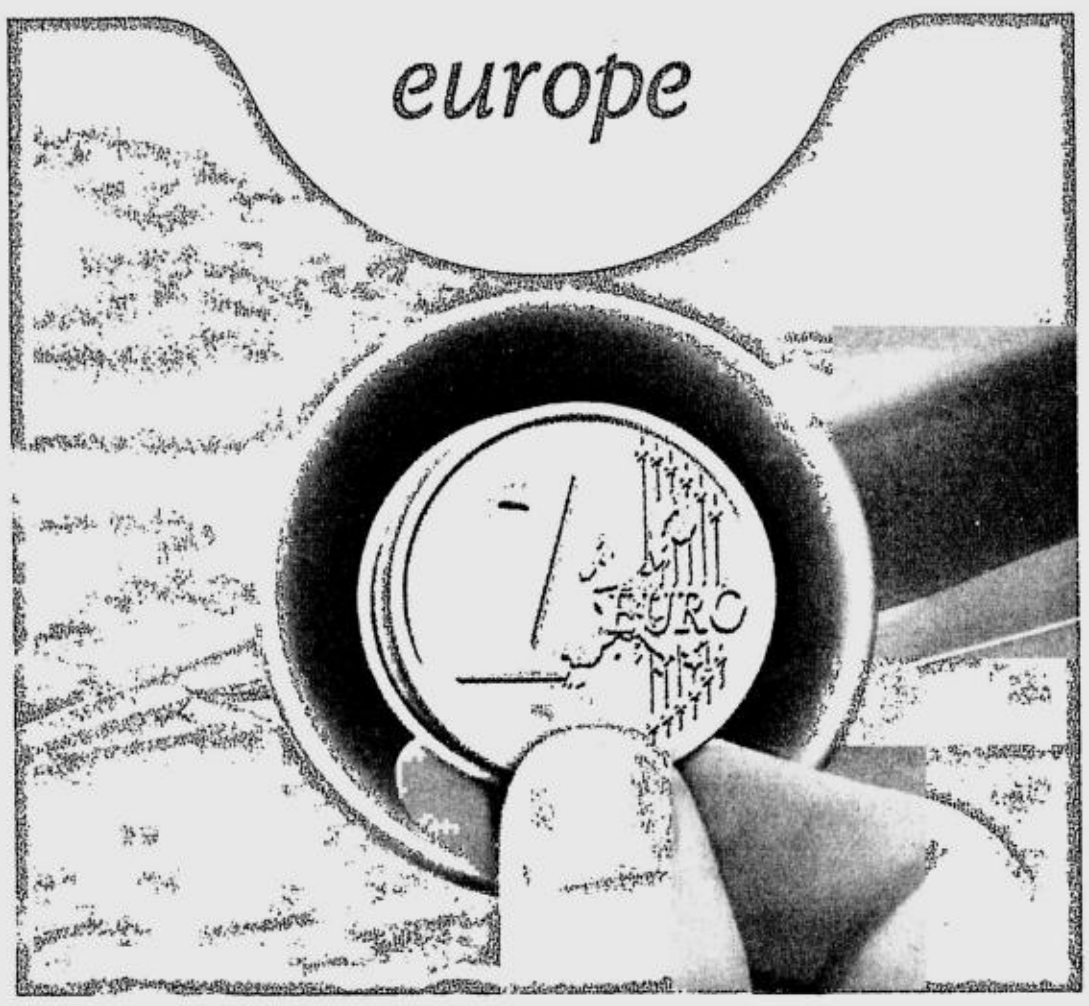

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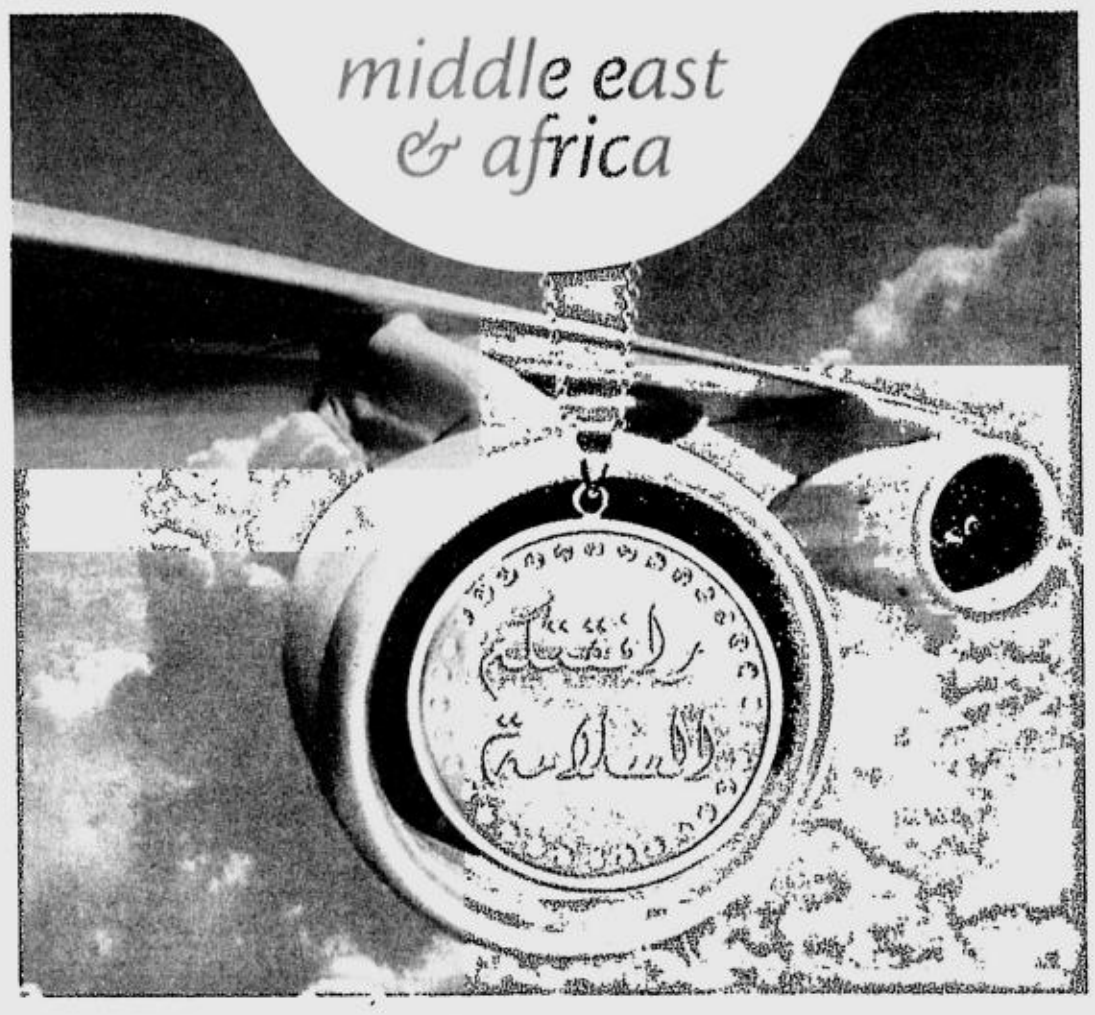

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'Cycle of misery'

THE WORLD BANK REPORT PLACING THE PHILIPpines among the world's most corrupt nations has been met with disbelief, dismay and anger by the Arroyo administration and its allies in Congress. The report was "unfair, inaccurate and misleading," House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles protested. "There are no specifics," he added. "They are just accusations meant to destroy, and not to help, this republic." Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas blamed the unflattering report on the opposition. "The black propaganda against President Macapagal-Arroyo (resulted in) the unfair World Bank assessment," he said. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the report "apparently glosses over our steady gains" in combating corruption and that, in fact, there are surveys showing a decline in the incidence of graft.

EDITORIAL

These administration apologists should have digested the story before opening their mouths. By their responses, they only betrayed their paranoia or their inability to come up with some sensible answer to the damaging study.

The story said that in a study of 209 countries conducted last year, the Philippines placed among the bottom 37.4 percent in terms of corruption. That was a sharp fall from its 50.5 percent ranking in 1998. The story also said these findings were drawn from the responses of 120,000 citizens, experts and enterprises in different countries. Meaning that at least 500 people who knew the country had given their assessment on the extent of corruption in the Philippines, not a handful of biased World Bank bureaucrats darkly plotting to destroy the republic, as Nograles suspects. Neither could it have been the handiwork of anti-administration politicians and critics, as Cagas seems to believe, unless he has proof that the opposition was able to pack the group of respondents with their own people.

How about the "steady gains" in the campaign against graft and corruption being touted by Bunye? Only admirers of the administration must have noticed them. There has been a lot of noise about the lifestyle checks on government officials and cases being filed against some of them, but convictions have been very few and far between. No one close to Malacañang has been charged, much less jailed. Not even former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, against whom both the Senate and the Commission on Audit found strong evidence of fraud in the disbursement of the P728-million fertilizer fund in 2004.

And if there are surveys purporting to show a decline in corruption cases, there are others showing otherwise, and they seem to be the more credible ones. Last year, for instance, Transparency International put the Philippines at 117th place—down from 102nd the previous year—among 159 countries, ranked from the cleanest to the most corrupt, based on a survey of business executives and analysts. The country scored a sorry and shameful 2.5 percent in the global corruption watchdog's Corruption Perception Index, where the cleanest (Iceland) earned a score of 9.7. The Philippines' score landed it among the 70 countries that got 3 or less, indicating a "severe" corruption problem.

An earlier survey among business executives, done by the World Economic Forum in 2003, found the Philippines being beaten only by Bangladesh for the top spot among 102 countries, ranked according to the extent of bribery and other irregularities attending public contracts.

Significantly, where comparisons can be made, corruption in the Philippines has become worse and more widespread over time. So instead of counting "gains" and blaming its critics, the administration should apply itself more seriously to stamping out the scourge of corruption.

The administration is aware that corruption is costing the government plenty. When it asked for a $25-million grant to fight corruption from the US government's Millennium Challenge Corp., it acknowledged that "corruption makes the job of the Philippine government harder: it is harder to implement reforms, to show results, and to win the support of the people."

But corruption is costing the people even more. As Transparency International chair Peter Eigen put it, "Corruption is a major cause of poverty. The two scourges feed off each other, locking their populations in a cycle of misery."

Needless to say, that is a cycle that needs to be broken completely and quickly. But the task will never be done if the administration continues to protect officials linked to shady transactions and even to expand opportunities for corruption, say by increasing the graft-ridden congressional pork barrel.

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GMA also committed Thaksin's sins

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PREDICTABLY, TOP OFFICERS OF THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines ruled out a Thai-style coup d'état in the Philippines. Pure bravado. The truth is they are only hoping no such thing will happen here. But history has shown that some top generals were usually the last to know when fellow officers decided to grab power.

And the political crisis in Thailand (and in Hungary) are eerily similar to what is happening here. Thaksin Shinawatra has been accused of human rights violations, graft and corruption and election cheating. He has been blamed for a worsening Muslim insurgency. And there were street protests and demands for him to resign. He was accused of being arrogant and of acting like an autocrat. To ease the crisis, Thaksin promised to step down but then changed his mind. In Hungary, rioters are demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany after he was caught on tape that he had lied in order to win an election. Don't these sound familiar? Hasn't Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo been accused of having done all that? The wages of sin are coming perilously close.

Here's another similarity: Our GMA likes to travel abroad to escape the criticisms and problems here at home. Thaksin was traveling to New York when the Thai generals decided to oust him.

As he told reporters in the chartered plane flying him to exile in London: "I was prime minister when I came, and I was jobless on the way back." That's how fleeting power is, and that could happen to our own GMA the next time she goes on another of her useless but money-wasting junkets. (She just returned from a five-nation junket.) She may leave the Philippines a jetsetting President one day and return to find somebody else sitting in Malacañang.

* * *

Opposition mayors in Metro Manila claim that Malacañang is targeting them for harassment. After the suspension of Pasay Mayor Peewee Trinidad and the filing of charges against Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, the opposition Metro mayors (which included J.V. Ejercito of San Juan and Toby Tiangco of Navotas) told a press conference that they may be next.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno quickly countered that they shouldn't complain because local officials from both the opposition and the administration parties have been suspended by Malacañang. Not this one.

Mayor Jose B. Catindig of Santa Rosa, Laguna, has been suspended for six months after having been found guilty by the DILG, which acted on two administrative complaints, of culpable violation of the Constitution, abuse of authority, oppression and grave misconduct. The decision was transmitted to Malacañang way back on Aug. 28, 2006, but the Palace has been sitting on it since then. The DILG findings in Catindig's case was issued even before the suspension orders on the mayors of Pasay and Baguio. The two are now serving their six-month suspension but not Catindig. What's the difference?

Records show that on June 2, 2006, Catinding transferred two employees of the city government against their wishes. Nelia Carvajal, city accountant, and Erlinda Cresencia, city environment and natural resources officer (Cenro), filed the above charges against Catindig as their transfers violated the Civil Service Law as well as their constitutional rights.

In his answer, Catindig said that the transfers were legitimate, "in the exigency of the service," and was within his power and prerogative as local chief executive.

The complainants averred that their transfers were meant to "harass and humiliate them against whom he harbors ill feelings for perceived disobedience, snobs and insults" the two employees humiliated Catindig with when he was still vice mayor. When he assumed the mayorship after the death of the elected mayor, he got the opportunity to get even and transferred them to other positions.

Catindig replied that the "transfers" of the complainants were actually "reassignments" and that the positions to which the two were reassigned were equal in rank and compensation of their previous positions.

The DILG found out, however, that there was actually a reduction in the pay of the two complainants. Whereas in their old positions, they had a cell phone allowance of P2,000 a month each, there was none in the new positions. Also, the DILG discovered that complainant Cresencia would actually be demoted, as the Office of the Housing Unit to which she was reassigned has no staff. The DILG also found out that the reassignments did not provide for a period within which the reassignment was to take effect.

Finally, the DILG concluded that the reassignments were motivated by Catindig's "desire to spite complainants for what he perceived were snobs, insults and disobedience by the complainants when he was still vice mayor."

The "unconsented" reassignments, the DILG declared, were clearly a "diminution in rank, status and salary of complainants" and that Catindig violated their security of tenure and was guilty of the charges filed against him.

The mayor was suspended for six months. But unlike opposition mayors whose suspensions were immediately implemented, the suspension of Catindig has been "frozen" by Malacañang. A clear case of double standard of justice.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Somebody texted me this very timely joke:

What is the difference between Thai and Filipino generals?

Answer: Thai generals now—"*may bayag*."

Filipino generals—"*may bayad*."

Democracy vs accountability in Bangkok

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE IRONY IS THAT, WERE IT NOT FOR THE Sept. 19 coup in Bangkok, Thaksin Shinawatra most probably would have won the November parliamentary elections. In other words, Thailand's Manila-style people power uprising did not really oust Thaksin. It merely gave him an opportunity to break the political impasse, call for new elections—and win. The military intervened, apparently with the blessings of a revered monarch, to enforce political accountability but certainly not to carry forth the democratic will.

That Thaksin's corruption and civil rights violations couldn't be chastised through the ballot is the problem of the Thai people, who lack political maturity. The common folk would trade off good governance for good economics. That the world has condemned the bloodless coup and called for a return to democracy—the same democracy that installed Thaksin, I presume—is the problem of the world. It fails to understand transplanted constitutionalism, where the will of the majority is a thin veneer for other sources of legitimacy.

Both sides to the Bangkok debate have draped themselves in the banner of democracy. Thaksin said in New York, speaking on "The Future of Democracy of Asia": "A free and fair democratic election process must not be compromised by those who do not like its outcomes ... When the people have spoken through elections which are judged truly democratic, the people's will must carry the day, and not be compromised by demonstrations in the street. If this were to happen, what can we expect to happen to Asia's democratic future?"

But listen to the new ruling junta, the Administrative Reform Council (ARC): "There has been social division like never before. Each side has been trying to conquer another with all possible means and the situation tends to intensify with growing doubts on the administration amid widespread reported corruption. .... The revolution (*sic*) body thus needs to seize power. We have no intention to rule but to return the power to the people as soon as possible ...."

Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin, army chief and now head of the council, expressed it more curtly: "We were forced by the situation to stage the coup. Nobody guided us to do it. We listened to the voice of the people."

Bangkok had been rife with coup rumors ever since Thaksin's crisis of legitimacy erupted in January 2006. In February, Thaksin dissolved parliament and called for elections in April, which the opposition boycotted. From most accounts, Thaksin appeared to have won the April polls. Amid mounting Edsa-type protests that impugned Thaksin's commitment to political reform, the king stepped forward and called on the courts to solve the national crisis. A little over a week later, the Constitutional Court nullified the April elections and paved the way for new elections. This "restored" the old parliament headed by Thaksin, who resumed his post as prime minister in a caretaker capacity. In July and August, Thaksin confirmed intelligence reports of assassination plots against him.

The coup was launched while Thaksin was in New York to attend a UN meeting. On Sept. 19, Thaksin convened an 8 a.m. teleconference with all the military commanders, but no one showed up. By 6:30 p.m., the army's special forces began to move into Bangkok. At 10:20 p.m., Thaksin declared a "state of emergency" by phone from New York, relieving Sonthi of his post as army chief. By 11 p.m., Sonthi effectively took over with tanks parked at strategic places around the capital.

Bangkok's The Nation has described military intervention as doing "the wrong thing for the right reason." But it concedes that this "perception [of] good faith will be extremely fragile. Public trust in power in the hands of men with guns can last as long as the smoke that follows when a shot is fired." As if in response, the council told foreign diplomats that a civilian government would be appointed to govern within two weeks and a general election could be held by October next year.

One lesson we can learn is that the Bangkok coup was as much a military war as it was a media war, a battle for the hearts and minds of the Thai people. That is why Sonthi's troops forthwith took over the television networks, and Thaksin couldn't find any channel which would broadcast his announcement of the emergency. (He eventually did. He spoke by telephone, broadcast live, but with a still photo of him.)

The ARC has since asked for media's cooperation "to present accurate news" and authorized the government to check news reports that would affect the work of the ARC. By Day 2, the ARC issued a ban on any political gathering of more than five people, and a pro-Thaksin former MP has been "taken away by soldiers" for protesting.

The immediate test for the ruling junta's commitment to democracy is not its promise to deliver power to handpicked civilians or to conduct elections soon. These promises are meaningless unless press freedom is respected. We can eternally calibrate the fine balance between democracy versus accountability, but there are no two ways about respecting civil liberties.

I found it amusing that the immediate reaction of Malacañang and of the Armed Forces of the Philippines was to disavow publicly any possibility of "copycat coups." These denials do not amount to anything much—if a coup will happen, it will happen—but they have to be made, lest we all try to divine various meanings from their "sounds of silence."

The Thai media regulations and the loud Philippine denials of "copycat coups" both show the power of a free press, and why, whether in Bangkok after the coup or in Manila after Proclamation 1017, muzzling the press was first on the agenda.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmai

Relocation and resettlement

COMMENTARY

Roberto S. Salva
Institute on Church and Social Issues

ONE TACIT RULE IN NGO (NON-GOVERNMENtal organization) meetings is this: no lecturing. There are, of course, other rules—arriving on time for the meeting, staying till it ends and putting the mobile phones on silent mode—but they are quite problematic to impose, no matter how sharply one looks at the culprit. But when somebody lectures, the discomfort that shows on the faces of the attendees can be quite daunting to the "lecturer."

Last month, in a meeting I attended at the Caritas-Manila office, a woman PO (people's organization) leader broke this rule and gave a lecture on the world of difference between "relocation" and "resettlement."

Relocation of families along the *riles* (rail tracks) was the agenda for the day. Present were the NGOs involved in the North and South Railway Project and the PO leaders representing the affected families. The priests of parishes that included the settlements along the *riles* were there as well.

When the PO leader began to lecture on the difference between "relocation" and "resettlement," the NGO representatives and the other PO leaders stopped their cliquish talks and looked at her. The priests, who were sitting in front, turned around and also looked. But only for a while. Everybody went back to what they had been doing: engaging in cliquish talks, and waiting for the rather late-served coffee and the plenary discussions. No one, however, explicitly dismissed what she said.

She said it right. There is a difference between "relocation" and "resettlement." Defining and differentiating one from the other are imperatives beyond the need for political correctness. No one could have more perfectly given a lecture on how different these two words are than that PO leader—one whose ideas have been hammered out by her life in informal settlements and whose words on resettlement will certainly affect her future.

Early on in the meeting, she had stood up a couple of times to tell us that the lot assigned to her family in the resettlement area in Cabuyao was a dump. Yes, not near but *nasa* (on a) dump. If her family came from the Payatas dump, relocating them to a similar place would entail less adjustment for them, or so it seemed to the brilliant minds of the government agencies in charge of their relocation. Her family, of course, came from a settlement along the *riles*.

The current concept of moving informal settlers to a new place is simply "relocation," a concept trapped in the meaning of the word which is "a change in place." An informal settlement is demolished and its residents are *ibinagsak* (dropped off)—the actual adjective used by relocatees—near places with suggestive names like Malaria and Bigte (suicide-by-hanging).

The change does not necessarily mean for the better for it does not account for the losses incurred by the displacement. In the process of relocation, informal settlers do not only lose their houses, they also lose their livelihoods, the schools where their children go, their health center, their proximity to the market, their communities, their habitat. The list goes on. Allowing ourselves to be trapped in that word, "relocation," and what that word implies, will certainly mean losses both for the displaced relocatees and the government relocating them.

Why losses for the government? If conditions in the relocation areas do not even get close to the "comfort" of their uncomfortable informal settlements, the relocatees abandon their relocation lots. They go back to where they came from.

For the past five or six years, we have been monitoring relocatees in three relocation areas in Bulacan. They came from Caloocan, Malabon and Navotas. The second monitoring of randomly sampled households, done in 2002, revealed that 16 percent had returned to Manila (perhaps to the original site) and 15 percent had left their relocation sites to live somewhere else.

The conditions of the relocation sites from the time the informal settlers were "*ibinagsak*" until the second monitoring were rather dismal. Most of them were greeted only by their lots, some had core houses which were not as sturdy as the structures they had constructed in their original settlements. The water lines were not in place until four or five years later. There were no jobs. Livelihood opportunities were limited to trainings and meager seed money for business start-ups. Some were able to keep their jobs near their old settlement but the travel cost them a lot. There were neither schools nor health centers nearby. Market places were reached only after a walk over half a mountain or even more.

The number of relocatees abandoning their relocation areas has reduced but departures have continued. The third monitoring showed only 1 percent more had returned to Manila and another 7 percent had moved to some other places. This year's monitoring revealed a higher rate of departures, though still lower than that of 2002: 7 percent have moved back to Manila, and 9 percent to other places.

The lower rate may be attributed to the fact that only a small portion of the original relocatees is left. Yes, some have stayed and have come out as the "fittest" in the battle for survival.

Now, the ones that are left are threatened with ejection. They have not been able to regularly pay for the amortization. How could they? Livelihood opportunities are still scarce.

"Resettlement" is what the informal settlers are asking for. The word does not merely mean relocation. It also connotes "comforting" and "settling." Settling requires, at the least, reparation for the losses. What are those losses? Let the informal settlers—all of them—stand up and be heard.

Night of the generals

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

A FEW MONTHS BACK, FILIPINOS ASKED WHY GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo could not do a "Thaksin." Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had just resigned, following massive public protests around allegations of corruption, and Filipinos were hoping Arroyo could do something similar.

Alas, Thaksin (in Thailand, first names are used rather than the surname) quickly turned around and resumed his post. There were a few more protest actions in Thailand but the political tensions eventually went into low simmer, just as they have in the Philippines.

So, the Thai coup Tuesday night came as a real surprise to the world. Perhaps, most aghast was Thaksin himself, who had confidently flown off to New York to address the UN General Assembly. When the tanks rolled into Bangkok, Thaksin quickly declared, long-distance, a state of emergency, but within a few hours it became clear he had been ousted. He has since flown into exile in England.

I don't think that's the last we'll hear of Thaksin. In many ways, he was like our own President Joseph Estrada, popular with the masses with his dole-out programs. Unlike Estrada however, he was overseas when ousted, and therefore escaped arrest. A billionaire, he can easily make a political comeback in the future.

'Thaksined'

Meantime, the Thais—and the world—wonder about Thailand's future. Governments have reacted cautiously, mostly urging a peaceful resolution of problems and an early return to civilian rule.

My Thai friends are ambivalent. Many didn't like Thaksin; but are nervous about the new military junta.

Here in the Philippines, people are no longer asking if Arroyo can do a Thaksin, but if Arroyo shouldn't be "Thaksined," the new Filipino-Thai verb ominously sounding like the Filipino word for betrayal.

I've always felt Thailand is our political twin. Like Filipinos, Thais are passionate about politics, constantly complaining about feudal and corrupt leaders.

Like the Philippines, Thailand has experienced many coups but the Thai military has been far more active in politics. It was a 1932 coup that forced Thailand to move from an absolute to constitutional monarchy. There have been 17 coups since then, and some of the military regimes that were established following the coups ended up as brutal dictatorships, which is why the Thais are nervous about this new junta.

The current coup leaders have formed a Democratic Reform Council, ruling through martial law. Foreign TV stations such as CNN have been temporarily blocked, and the Information Ministry has been vested the right to censor news. The junta is likely to dissolve the Thai constitution soon and then appoint a new prime minister. Elections have been promised before October 2007, which is a long way off, probably intended to buy time to neutralize Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai Party (reflecting Thaksin's populism, his party name means Thai Love Thai).

But it's possible this junta will be benign. The Democratic Reform Council is headed by Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin, whom Bangkok Post has described as a "soldier's soldier," a professional who rose through the ranks to become chief of the army, without being tainted by any charges of corruption.

General Sonthi is a Muslim, the first ever to reach such a high position in the Thai armed forces. He was appointed by Thaksin, but was believed to be on his way out. He had been critical of Thaksin's iron fist policies in fighting the Muslim insurgency in the south, and had instead called for a dialogue with Muslim leaders.

Born-again democrats

There are similarities and differences in the Filipino and Thai experiences with the military. We like to think we have a strong tradition of civilian governance but we forget that the first short-lived Filipino republic was headed by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo. The period after 1946 was marked by civilian supremacy, at least until President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law. Marcos was a bit of a schizophrenic, shuttling between the roles of a civilian president and the commander in chief of the military, but his dictatorship did leave a much more powerful military.

Our military has slowly become more professional, but I wonder if we have generals who might have views—and a clean background—similar to those of General Sonthi. We could point to Marcos' defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Fidel Ramos, whose decision to turn against Marcos in 1986 sparked off the Edsa revolt. "Born-again democrats," is how these two are sometimes described.

Enrile has been senator several times but seems more keen on defending personal business interests than the nation's fragile democracy. Ramos eventually became president and fears that he would revert to his martial law persona turned out to be unfounded. In the past two years, Ramos has tried to play the role of the elderly statesman, he has lost credibility because of his constant flip-flopping in relation to Arroyo.

I'm skeptical about the ones who have launched coup attempts against Arroyo—their political views were never really clear and we've seen how some of them have since sold out. But I'm even more cynical about the ones who, for now at least, still support Arroyo. She has favored those like herself, disdainful of human rights and democratic processes: Even under her nominally civilian government, they've already been able to get away with repressive policies that we normally associate with martial law. If these hawks ever turned against her—and this is still possible—they would become even more ruthless, and plunge the country into total chaos.

Kings and bishops

We need to consider one sharp difference between Thai and Filipino politics—this is the continuing presence of the Thai king. Although Thailand is a constitutional monarchy, the king continues to wield considerable power as a moral leader. The current king has been a master at dealing with the soldiers, to the point where coup leaders would not be able to hold their ground without getting an endorsement from the king.

It's not surprising that the current junta has been endorsed by the king. An editorial in the Bangkok Post speculates that General Sonthi may have even led the coup because of his loyalty to the king. Thaksin's initial resignation was believed to have followed a reprimand from the king; so when he returned to power, this was seen as a form of lèse majesté, gross disrespect for the king.

In some ways, our Catholic bishops played similar roles to the Thai king, potentially powerful as moral leaders. But we've seen how the bishops have played politics lately. If a military junta ever came to power, I seriously wonder if the bishops would be there to keep the military in check.

Arroyo "Thaksined"? It could turn out to be a long, bloody night of the generals. Thanks, but no thanks.

Open letter to Nicole

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF STAFF SGT. CHAD CARPENTIER HAD thought that by depicting the Filipina complainant in the Subic rape case as a "professional" rather than an innocent victim he had succeeded in destroying her credibility, then he has another think coming.

In the first place, it is immaterial whether Nicole is, in street lingo, a "working girl" or just a tourist caught in a risky situation. If she did not consent to sex, or was too inebriated to have given her consent, then it was rape pure and simple. It matters not whether she had previous sexual experience, or even a genital infection, as a defense lawyer sneakily insinuated in his line of questioning.

Then, too, even if Carpentier and his buddies had "in good faith" associated with and carted off Nicole believing that she was a prostitute, he still has a lot of explaining to do. In the first place, the US Defense Department has already announced a "zero tolerance" policy on the solicitation of sexual favors by US servicemen. But the sergeant, as the most senior of the four accused, not just tolerated the assault, he even, by some accounts, joined in cheering on his good buddy, Daniel Smith, while the latter was having sex with Nicole in the back seat of a van.

It's also telling that defense lawyers believed that by besmirching Nicole and having her labeled as a "professional," they were destroying whatever support and sympathy she was getting from the public. Apparently, too, they believed that nobody would question the motives of the four Marines who were inside a bar, plying a woman with drinks, then carrying her off in the dead of night. I guess this is because society still believes that men have a "natural right" to solicit and enjoy sexual favors, that they are "natural (and inevitable) predators." Indeed, many people, women included, have tended to point the finger of blame at Nicole, saying she had asked for it because she had been careless and had let her guard down.

I once wrote that "we are all Nicole." This may be truer than we think. Apparently, to deduce from Carpentier's statement, they felt free to take liberties with Nicole because they believed she was a prostitute. And this simply illustrates, as an editorial in another paper stated, that to American men, "all Filipinas are prostitutes."

* * *

THE WOMEN'S Crisis Center, the first local NGO established to provide shelter, counseling and training to women and children victims of violence, has written an "open letter" to Nicole in the wake of her tumultuous experiences, not at the hands of her rapists, but at the hands of her public prosecutors.

This is an English translation of the original written in Filipino. The letter follows in full:

We, the women of the Women's Crisis Center, express our strong support and unity with your cause.

The Women's Crisis Center is a private organization that gives comprehensive and sensitive services to women and children victims of violence. From our 17 years of solidarity with victims of violence against women, we understand that you are facing a difficult time. Not many women have found the inner strength to confront the legal system. We all know that this is complicated and fraught with difficulties especially for the rape victims. It's not just your case that is being tried but also your honor and your entire person.

Our society has a long way to go before it can fully understand victims of violence like you and render real justice and healing. We also know that it must hurt you to see the people whom you had hoped would defend you are now the same ones attacking you and your family.

Despite all the accusations hurled at you, we continue to believe that you were the victim in this case. We admire you for the steadfastness and inner strength that you have shown in the midst of this very difficult process that you are going through.

We stand ready to offer our understanding, sympathy and support to you in your struggle. Even if you don't prevail in court, you will still be vindicated in the eyes of women and before the entire Filipino nation.

* * *

"SEX Sluts in Cyberspace" was the provocative title of a forum on sexuality, semiotics and information technology that marked the launch of www.margaritaholmes.com, the website of sex therapist, psychologist and fearless female Dr. Margie Holmes.

The afternoon affair was a mix of provocative discussion, humor (mainly from emcee Giselle Sanchez), and classical music from tenor Conrado Ong and sopranos Beatriz Torre and Florence Aguilar.

Three UP professors gamely wrestled with the issues emerging from the intersect of sex, social attitudes and the exploding sexual content on the Internet.

Prof. Ma. Theresa Batangan chose to explore the many versions and permutations of the word "slut" in English and Filipino, tracing how the creation and application of these words told us about society's "parameters of behavior" and acceptable boundaries.

Filmmaker Nick de Ocampo urged everyone, men and women, to demand to know "who's calling me a slut?" Beneath the naming and the labeling, he said, is the "invisible power of patriarchy," which seeks to put women in their place by "othering" those who dare behave in unacceptable ways. He also urged greater media awareness among media consumers, especially in decoding the subtle, hidden and manifest messages in images and words.

Cherry Joy Billedo, on the other hand, explored the world of sexual commerce and exchange on the Internet, where people take "assumed" or "alternative" personas and use their anonymity to undertake behavior they would not otherwise be willing to admit to or engage in. But sex in Cyberspace, she warned, is "just our tendencies magnified and reinforced online." "Don't blame technology!" she warned.

Rizal's reading list

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT I COULD NOT accept Lizzie Zobel's invitation to give a talk to 200 teachers in the Sa Aklat Sisikat Program. Reading—whether in English or Filipino—is something that should be encouraged among students. I'm quite surprised that some of my students actually think I am a dinosaur because I give them assignments that require them to go to the library and physically handle a book. This generation seems to have the misconception that anything and everything can be found on the Internet. That they have to read books seems old-fashioned, so they are not impressed that a number of our national heroes read quite a lot: Andres Bonifacio, Fr. Jose Burgos, Apolinario Mabini, Emilio Jacinto, the Luna brothers, Juan and Antonio, and, of course, Jose Rizal.

When I was on a Fulbright research fellowship in 2000, I visited the US Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. at a time when they had a special exhibit on Thomas Jefferson and how his library formed the core of the Library of Congress. They gathered all the books that Jefferson owned and read, put them in magnificent mahogany bookcases, arranged according to Jefferson's own bibliographic classification. What was impressive was that you could actually walk through the room and see what it was like inside Jefferson's mind, for books read or owned form part of the furniture of our mind.

Show me what kind of books you read, and I can guess what kind of a person you are. Thus, from Bonifacio's book list we can tell what he was like. From the list of Rizal's 2,000 books, we can also tell what he was like.

One way to understand Rizal inside out is to read all the books he read. The only living person who has done this or is on the way to completing it is National Artist Virgilio Almario who wants to know what made Rizal tick literature-wise. Two of the books read by both Rizal and Bonifacio were: "Ruinas de Palmyra," which I have yet to read, and "The Wandering Jew" by Eugene Sue, which is as thick as a phone directory!

I started reading "The Wandering Jew," but could not get past Page 25. Thus, I took a different approach by going over the list of books our hero owned or read, as compiled by Esteban de Ocampo in that wonderfully informative monograph "Rizal as Bibliophile," then I went to the Lopez Museum and looked up Rizal's own handwritten bibliographic cards that De Ocampo missed. The Lopez Museum cards are quite fascinating and led me to the following conclusions:

We know Rizal read fairly tales even as an adult and read both those by the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen. The Lopez Museum has the card for the latter and confirms that he translated these tales from German into Tagalog and even illustrated these for his nephews and nieces: "Ang puno ng pino" ("The little fir tree"); "Gahinlalaki" ("Thumbelina"); "Ang pangit na sisiu ng pato" ("The ugly duckling"); "Ang sugu" ("The angel"), and "Ang batang babaing may dalang sakafuego" ("Little match girl").

We also know that Rizal was partial to French literature. He read and obviously enjoyed "The Three Musketeers" and "The Count of Montecristo," among many other novels. Rizal also read Dickens' "David Copperfield" and the other famous book "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

From the list, we can also see that he read or owned "The Barber of Seville" and "Marriage of Figaro," and it would not be far-fetched to presume that during his travels, he caught the opera versions.

Of course, Rizal read a lot of Filipiniana, mostly books on history. The result of all this research is the annotated version of "Sucesos de las islas Filipinas" by Antonio de Morga, a work originally published in Mexico in 1609 and reprinted in Paris in 1890 by Rizal himself.

It is not surprising that he owned some very pragmatic books, like Baedeker travel guides to Germany, the Rhine, Central Italy, Paris and Switzerland. He sometimes copied from these books when describing his travels in his letters.

He owned three Bibles—one in Spanish, a Biblio-Hebraica (perhaps what we know as the Jerusalem Bible today) in two editions, one Catholic, the other a translation from the Latin or Vulgate.

He read a book, "Colony Building: Money's Java, or How to Manage a Colony," as well as Nasau Lee's "Tea cultivation, cotton and other agricultural experiments in India" (he used this probably when he contemplated the new Calamba in Sandakan North Borneo, now Sabah, and of course when he was in exile in Dapitan).

Rizal read the memoirs of another great man who was vertically challenged like himself, Napoleon. He also read "Lives and Pictures of the Presidents of the United States" (a similar book, if we are to believe Pio Valenzuela was also in Bonifacio's library/reading list).

Some books which I cannot imagine Rizal reading were: "The marvels of electricity," "Drawings and ornaments of architecture," and a six-volume set on "Studies of birds."

There is so much one can learn from the books a person owns and reads. If I had the time to trace each of these books and read them, I would truly know Rizal inside-out, but the task is just so great that I should settle for other heroes with shorter reading lists. But lest I be stoned for heresy or libel, I will keep that list to myself.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

PCGG above Congress, SC

THERE IS JUST NO STOPPING THE ARROgant behavior of Presidential Commission on Good Government officials. They openly defy the Senate as if they are all-powerful and above public accountability. And they disregard court rulings.

After the government got favorable rulings in some of the cases involving the coco levy fund, PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio declared that "litigation is disadvantageous to government." This being so, the PCGG is supposed to have blanket authority to compromise with Eduardo Cojuangco?

The PCGG officials have not only assumed infallible authority over the legislative and judicial branches of government. The latest and most disturbing, if not ridiculous, incident was the refusal of the PCGG, in an en banc meeting, to honor an invitation by coconut farmer groups, lawyers and interested parties to speak in a forum that was meant to discuss the status of the coco levy cases in courts for a possible cooperation with private lawyers, in order to hasten the resolution of the cases and ensure that the coconut farmers get the benefits due them.

But lawyer Ernest Louie Miguel, PCGG's legal department director, replied in writing: "As a matter of policy, the commission does not allow its special legal counsels to talk in public about cases they are respectively handling in venues other than the court where the same are pending. This is to ensure that the public may not be confused [about] the commission's position on issues relative to the cases pending in courts."

If this is so, the PCGG is now a far cry from the PCGG under the late Haydee Yorac who, together with the commissioners then, took time in explaining to farmers' groups every legal move and strategy they were implementing. It was very clear to the PCGG commissioners then whose interests they were supposed to protect in the courts. Today, the PCGG incessantly ignores the voices of the small coconut farmers.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

The coco levy fund is a public concern. It involves billions of pesos collected from the coconut farmers during the Marcos regime. Only a few privileged cronies benefited from the levy. Any information regarding the coco levy cases, which needless to say affect millions of coconut farmers, should be made public.

But the PCGG now acts as if it is only protecting those who sit in government and not the coconut farmers or the Filipino people as a whole. Deals are made behind closed doors. Those who demand explanations are branded as destabilizers or enemies of the state.

The coco levy fund is just but one of the many concerns that are kept behind closed doors to the prejudice of farmers. There are others, like the fertilizer fund, which should have been used to help the farmers and fund the comprehensive agrarian reform program, but then got lost during the 2004 election campaign.

The Filipino people deserve transparency and truth.

—LIZA C. CONDINO,
program training officer, Coconut Industry Reform (COIR) Movement Inc.,
84 Masikap Ext., Diliman, QC

OneVoice's 'lies' are based on facts

WE REFER TO THE LETTER OF ONE ALDWIN B. Requejo. (PDI, 9/12/06) He accused OneVoice of lying for saying that the proposed constitutional changes would weaken the Supreme Court. He also took issue with our concern about Charter change allowing politicians to indefinitely stay in power.

There are three possible sources of the government's Cha-cha agenda: (1) the petition of Sigaw ng Bayan to the Comelec; (2) House Resolution 1230 on a constituent assembly; and (3) the recommendations of the Consultative Commission.

These sources have common provisions, but they also differ in some material aspects. With the government mum on where these documents differ, OneVoice has to point out the provisions that have serious implications and consequences to the people, because once the powerful interim parliament is in place—whether it is established through a people's initiative or a constituent assembly—it can, dominated as it will be by incumbent politicians, do anything it wants, subject only to another plebiscite with a wholesale "yes" or "no" question. It can even include changes that people are not being told about and exclude changes being promised at this time. So, it behooves us to examine the three documents.

The reference to the weakening of the Supreme Court, which will become the main check and balance to a powerful Parliament, is embodied in the following ConCom proposals:

(a) To remove the power of the Supreme Court to review the factual basis of martial law, the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus or the extension thereof, and to decide on the petition of any citizen within 30 days of its filing. (Please refer to Sec. 8 Art. 9 of the ConCom proposal.)

(b) To remove the power of the Supreme Court to determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion on the part of any branch or instrumentality of government. (Not in the ConCom proposal.)

(c) To increase to two-thirds vote of those participating, the power of the Supreme Court to decide on the constitutionality, operation, or application of presidential decrees, etc.

(d) To restore the power of the President to declare martial law on "immirtent danger of rebellion," a phrase (contained in the 1935 Constitution, but was not adopted by the 1987 Constitution) used by the late President Ferdinand Marcos when he declared martial law. (Sec. 12, Art. A, ConCom proposal.)

Does Requejo know that Sigaw's and the House's versions give the interim parliament the power to decide when to hold the elections now scheduled for May 2007? (Sec. 5[2], Art. 18 of Sigaw's draft petition.) The ConCom version cancels the elections altogether.

On the issue of indefinite continuance in office, this is based on the three versions' proposal to remove 1987 Constitution-mandated term limits for elected officials. The objection of OneVoice to indefinite continuance of power is that there is a clear conflict of interest for those who are going to change the rules.

—BENJAMIN T. TOLOSA JR.,
convenor, OneVoice

The Bangsamoro people's quest for justice

THE QUEST FOR THE RECOGNITION OF the right to ancestral land and self-determination—the right to determine freely their way of life—sums up the aspirations of the Bangsamoro people. This is what they have fought and died for in their long history—one that has been marked by triumph, defeat, deception, continuing struggle and survival.

The current standoff in the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front over the ancestral domain issue is a most crucial phase in the conduct of the peace negotiations. Land is the material basis of any people's existence and without it, the Bangsamoro people will die out, as what is happening now.

Similarly, the assertion of the right to self-determination is manifest in the Bangsamoro peoples' struggle to free themselves from the clutches of an exploitative, corrupt and oppressive government that for decades has failed to address our people's demand for genuine development and peace. It is a struggle carried on the basis of any nation's right to emancipate itself from a state that has perpetrated war and injustice against it.

The peace negotiations are a mere part of this struggle, hence, our struggle cannot merely rely on it. The government's betrayal of the Tripoli Agreement affirms this. The very fact that the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has become a tragic perversion of the Bangsamoro autonomy affirms this.

It is within this framework that we reiterate the call for the defense of the Bangsamoro peoples' ancestral lands.

—PITCH MANGONDATO,
convener, Union of Muslims for Morality & Truth (UMMAT),
Ortiz Bldg., Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

All receipts from Aug. 1 - Sept. 30, 2006 qualify for the Oct. 1 draw.

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Manila Water

NOTICE TO MANILA WATER CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC

The Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) will **decrease** from **P0.24** per cubic meter to **P0.16** per cubic meter effective fifteen (15) days after publication in general circulation newspapers. FCDA is based on exchange rate of P51.36 per US Dollar.

The FCDA was approved by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office in its Resolution No. 06-007-CA dated September 13, 2006 as confirmed by the MWSS Board Resolution No. 2006-205 dated September 14, 2006.

Manila Water continues to embark on service improvement and expansion programs, laying about 1440 kilometers of pipelines to date. Owing to its operating efficiency. Manila Water has reduced system losses from 63% to 30.2% while making water available 24 hours a day to 97% in the East Zone of Metro Manila. It has also more than doubled the volume of potable water delivered to its nearly 5.3 million residents in the East Zone from 440mld to 938mld by the middle of this year.

The first phase of the Antipolo Water Supply Project will be operational by the end of 2006 benefiting an initial 7,000 households, but ultimately, will provide water service to 150,000 households or nearly 800,000 residents in Antipolo.

Manila Water Company, the East Zone concessionaire covers the following areas: Manila (San Andres and Sta. Ana only), Quezon City (east of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional and Mindanao Ave., Districts of Tandang Sora, Pasong Tamo and Matandang Balara), Makati City (east of South Super Highway), Mandaluyong City, San Juan, Marikina City, Pasig City, Pateros, Taguig – all in Metro Manila; Rizal Province.

A MASKED activist joins the march on Liwasang Bonifacio on Thursday.

EKA NICKMATULHUDA/ CONTRIBUTOR

PROTESTERS burn an effigy of the President on a tank at a rally in Liwasang Bonifacio on Thursday. REM ZAMORA

Protesters warn GMA she'll end up like Thaksin

From page A1

cause historical precedents are not in her favor."

"Abusive and power-hungry leaders are meant to be overthrown in all ways possible," said Elmer Labog, chair of Kilusang Mayo Uno.

A protest leader, Armand Albarillo, condemned the killings of activists, including his parents, who were murdered by unidentified gunmen in 2002.

"Ms Arroyo has surpassed Marcos in some ways because she did not declare martial law and yet so many people were abducted and killed under her rule," Albarillo said.

Opposition groups, human rights watchdogs and more foreign governments have expressed alarm over the spate of killings targeting activists. Ms Arroyo also has been dogged by vote-rigging and corruption allegations.

In the first six months of this year, Amnesty International recorded 51 political killings in the Philippines, compared with 66 for all of 2005.

Karapatan, a local human rights group, has reported that at least 319 political activists were among the 752 people who have been killed since 2001, when Ms Arroyo came to power.

Charter change

Activists have pointed a finger at security forces, but military officials, who refer to the groups as communist fronts, have denied the charge. The President last month created a commission to investigate the slayings.

At a makeshift stage in front of the Post Office building, militant and religious leaders also spoke out against the proposed Charter change.

"We are here to emphasize that the people's initiative, instigated by the Sigaw ng Bayan, is only a formalization of creeping authoritarianism which seeks to preserve the power of Ms Arroyo and her supporters," Black and White Movement member Corazon "Dinky" Soliman told reporters at the rally.

Soliman, a former social welfare secretary under Ms Arroyo, said the proposed Charter change was part of the effort to "conceal" Ms Arroyo's more serious crime of manipulating the results of the 2004 elections.

"We are still pushing for the ouster or immediate resignation of Gloria, which depends on the collective wisdom of the Filipino people," she said.

For its part, the Counsels for the Defense of Liberties (Codal) said the move to change the Constitution was aimed at extending the terms of public officials.

"Codal calls on lawyers and law students to join the nation in condemning political and civil repression, denouncing human rights violations, opposing Charter change in all its forms under the current Arroyo administration, and preempting the institutionalization of a dictatorship," the group said.

Electoral mandate

Other groups that marched on Liwasang Bonifacio yesterday were Laban ng Masa, Sanlakas and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

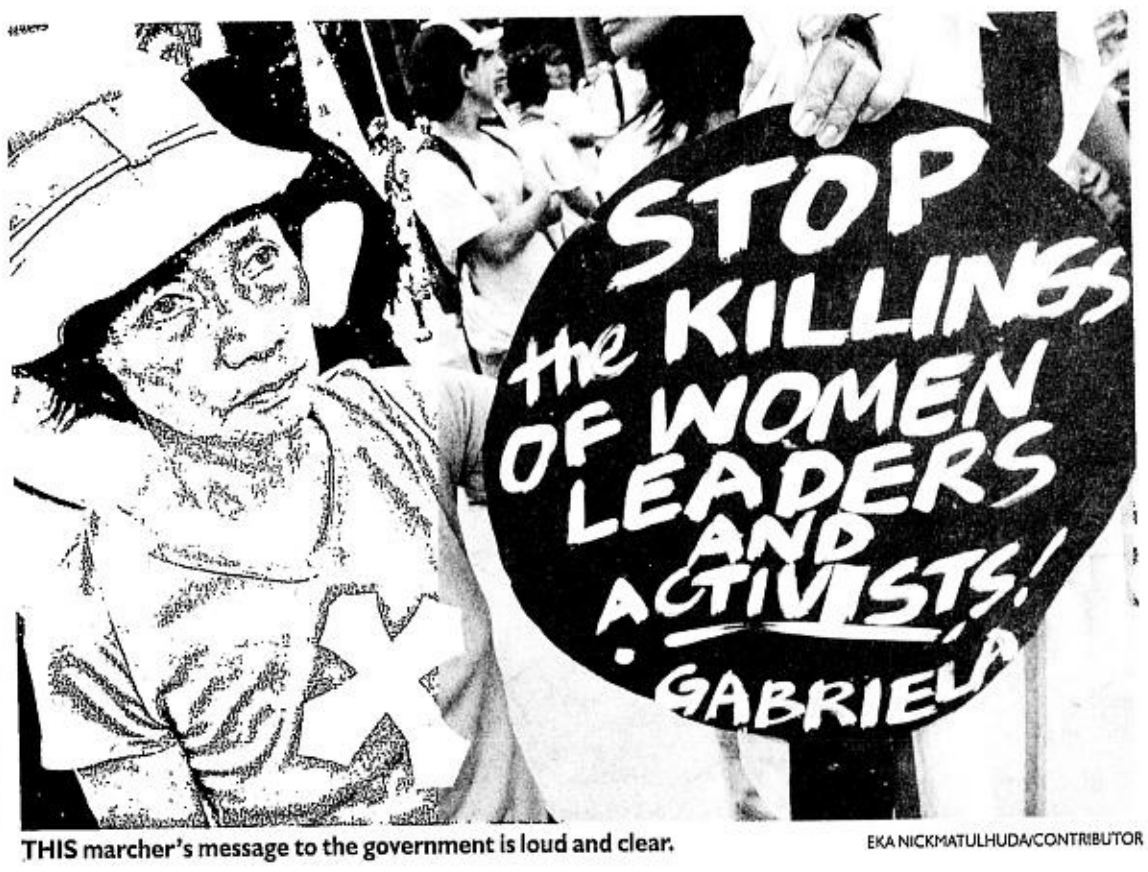
Dr. Francisco Nemenzo, chair of Laban ng Masa, said the current political climate was similar to that in 1970-72 just before Marcos declared martial law.

Nemenzo, former president of the University of the Philippines, said Ms Arroyo was resorting to the same tricks as Marcos to ensure her administration's survival.

"Unlike Marcos, however, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has no clear electoral mandate and she does not have firm control of the military," Nemenzo said in a statement.

"Unable to buy legitimacy for her illegitimate government, she is performing all sorts of legal tricks to ensure her political survival. One trick she learned from the late dictator is to monkey around with the Constitution," he said.

Nemenzo said the people's initiative to change the Constitution was a thinly disguised attempt to keep Ms Arroyo in power. *Reports from AP, Margaux C. Ortiz and Norman Bordadora*



THIS marcher's message to the government is loud and clear. EKA NICKMATULHUDA/CONTRIBUTOR

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House leaders unite in stand vs martial law

From page A1

particular situation in the country at that time," Enrile, Marcos' defense minister for 17 years, said at a press briefing, referring to the increasingly violent anti-Marcos rallies by student activists in the early '70s.

Amid the continuing spate of extrajudicial killings, Malacañang assured the nation that the Arroyo administration was at the "forefront" of the defense of democracy and the fight against political tyranny.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye urged the people "to renew their collective vow never to allow dictatorship in whatever form to happen again."

"We must all celebrate Philippine democracy in its most vibrant moments and fight all attempts to undermine it," Bunye said in a statement.

Rights violations abound

Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, House deputy minority leader, said those in government should stop saying "never again" because "tyranny and oppression are here again."

"Our country may not strictly be under martial law, but intolerance to dissent and criticism, massive corruption, gross violation of human rights and our freedoms abound," Cayetano said.

Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Roseller Barinaga said the "terrifying martial law experience" of Filipinos was "a constant reminder for any sitting President not to even consider putting the Philippines under martial law again."

Barinaga, vice chair of the House committee on human rights, said the administration-controlled House would revoke any martial proclamation.

"We are not at all powerless against martial law. In fact Article 7, Section 18, of the Constitution provides that 'within 48 hours from the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, the President shall submit a report in person or in writing to the Congress," he said.

Compensation bill

Congress, voting jointly, by a vote of at least a majority of all its members in regular or special session, may revoke such proclamation or suspension, which revocation shall not be set aside by the President, Barinaga said.

Barinaga and Puentevella said the commemoration of martial law was a fitting occasion for Congress to pass the compensation bill for the victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime.

"The compensation issue is as old as the shadows of martial law. It's about time that we grant it as part of the closure we all seek for our country's worst historical blunder," Puentevella said.

The House of Representatives passed on June 6 the proposed Marcos victims compensation measure, House Bill No. 3315, which sets aside P8 billion for the indemnification of victims of torture, illegal arrest and forced disappearance during martial law.

A counterpart bill in the Senate calls for a P10-billion package. The measures have yet to be reconciled in the bicameral conference committee.

No apology

Enrile said he was not apologizing for the declaration of martial law. "It was a constitutionally authorized act. It was a decision of the leadership of the country at that time," he said.

Enrile, who was part of the group of military advisers who helped Marcos plan martial law, noted that martial law was "acceptable" to the people "at least from 1972 all the way to 1975."

But along the way, changes in policies, personnel, thinking and the direction of the government made martial law unacceptable to the people, according to the senator whose staged ambush had provided the excuse for Marcos to declare martial law.

Excesses

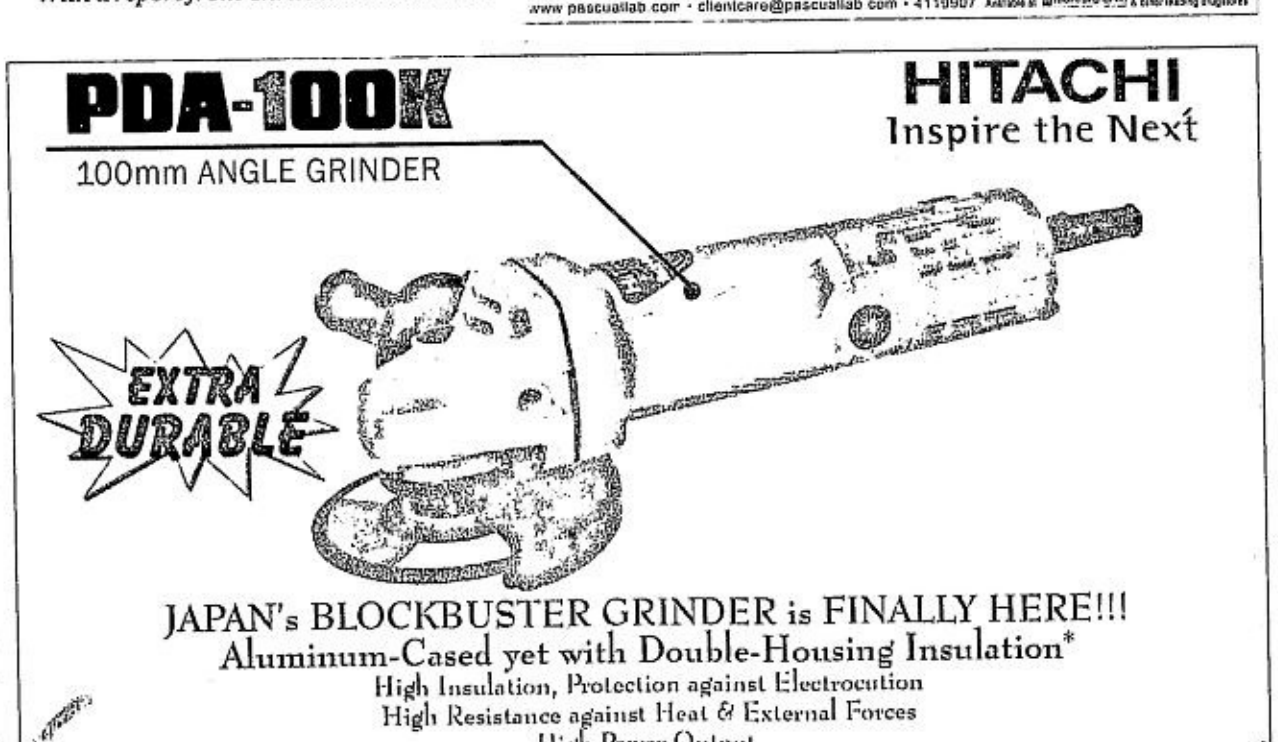
Enrile admitted that martial law had its excesses. "Well, those excesses must be addressed in accordance with our laws, in accordance with our judicial system, with our criminal justice system."

But he added: "And yes, we have to move on. We can't stop the passing of time, and the movement of history."

Enrile also defended his election as chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights from the criticism that he was unfit for the job because of his role in the implementation of martial law.

"If there are people who believe my conduct during that period was less than proper or less than legal or less than correct, they're free within the legal system to assert their rights. And I'm equally free and ready to defend myself because I don't think I committed any violation of the law, or a violation of the human rights of anybody if that is the charge," he said.

With a report from Christine O. Avendaño



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MILF guerrillas guard their main base in Maguindanao during a visit of journalists for a press conference of their top leaders.
JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Deadlock in peace talks gives businessmen jitters

COTABATO CITY—BUSINESSMEN IN THE AUTONOMOUS REgion in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have expressed alarm over the deadlock in peace talks between the government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Business leaders said the favorable peace and order situation in the region due to the ongoing peace process had contributed much in the improvement of the business climate.

Hadji Haron Bandila, chair of the ARMM's Business Council, said the business community in the region is for the continuation of the peace talks.

"No businessman in his right frame of mind will ever want the GRP-MILF talks not to succeed," Bandila said.

Antonio Santos, chair of the Mindanao Business Council from 2003 to 2005, said their contacts abroad have been keenly observing the ongoing talks.

He added that the gains of the peace process serve as their gauge in determining the safety of investments in Mindanao.

Bandila and Santos sounded optimistic that the government and the MILF "will soon come to terms and resume the peace process."

Ishak Mastura, ARMM trade and industry secretary, said officials of the ARMM are for the success of the talks.

"Even our regional governor, Datu Zaldy Ampatuan, fully supports the peace talks. Now is proper time for us to express full support to the GRP-MILF talks," Mastura said.

Mohaqher Iqbal, chief MILF negotiator, said two options are left for the government and the rebel movement at this stage of the peace process.

These, he said, are either "we build bridges and continue the talks or we both build walls and end everything."

"At this point, we still consider building bridges because that is the civilized way," he said.

Iqbal earlier said the MILF might go to the extreme of resuming armed struggle over territorial issues after the government panel appeared to be not considering the issue seriously.

Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said the MILF reaction was normal.

"But I would like to assure the MILF and the Bangsamoro people, the Arroyo administration is determined to sign a peace deal with the MILF," Dureza told radio station dxMS here.

Yesterday, US Embassy in Manila spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop called on the government and the MILF to continue the talks.

"It's important to reject violence," Lussenhop said in a telephone interview.

Sadako Ogata, head of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), said she finds the MILF sincere in the talks.

The Japanese aid agency is now part of an international team that monitors compliance by either side of an agreement to cease hostilities while the talks are ongoing.

Ogata is a veteran of Balkan and African conflicts.

She said during a visit to the main MILF base Camp Darapanan that Japan was very interested in the success of the talks and vowed to continue sending aid to Mindanao in the form of financing for infrastructure and other projects. *Edwin Fernandez and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao with a report from Volt Contreras in Manila*

Slain Sanchez aides' families demand justice

CALAMBA CITY—GRIEVING RELATIVES OF the two slain aides of Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez yesterday urged the Batangas City prosecutor to act swiftly on the murder and frustrated murder cases filed against Vice Gov. Richard Recto, the accused mastermind of the failed assassination of the governor.

In an e-mailed statement to the INQUIRER, Olivia Icaro, widow of the governor's driver Luisito Icaro, appealed to prosecutor Leona Castillo to immediately resolve the criminal charges they filed versus Recto.

She said she and her family wanted nothing more than the speedy resolution of the cases.

"We have lost (our) loved ones. We (will) only have peace of mind when we obtain justice and we hope it happens as soon as possible," Icaro said.

Florida Landicho, mother of Sanchez's police escort, PO2 Eric Landicho, who also died when two explosions ripped the governor's vehicle last June 1, shared the sentiments of Icaro.

She said the death of her son "could somehow be assuaged if those responsible for (my) son's death are brought to justice."

Together with Sanchez, both Icaro and Landicho were present as complainant-witnesses when they filed the criminal cases against Recto before Castillo's office last week.

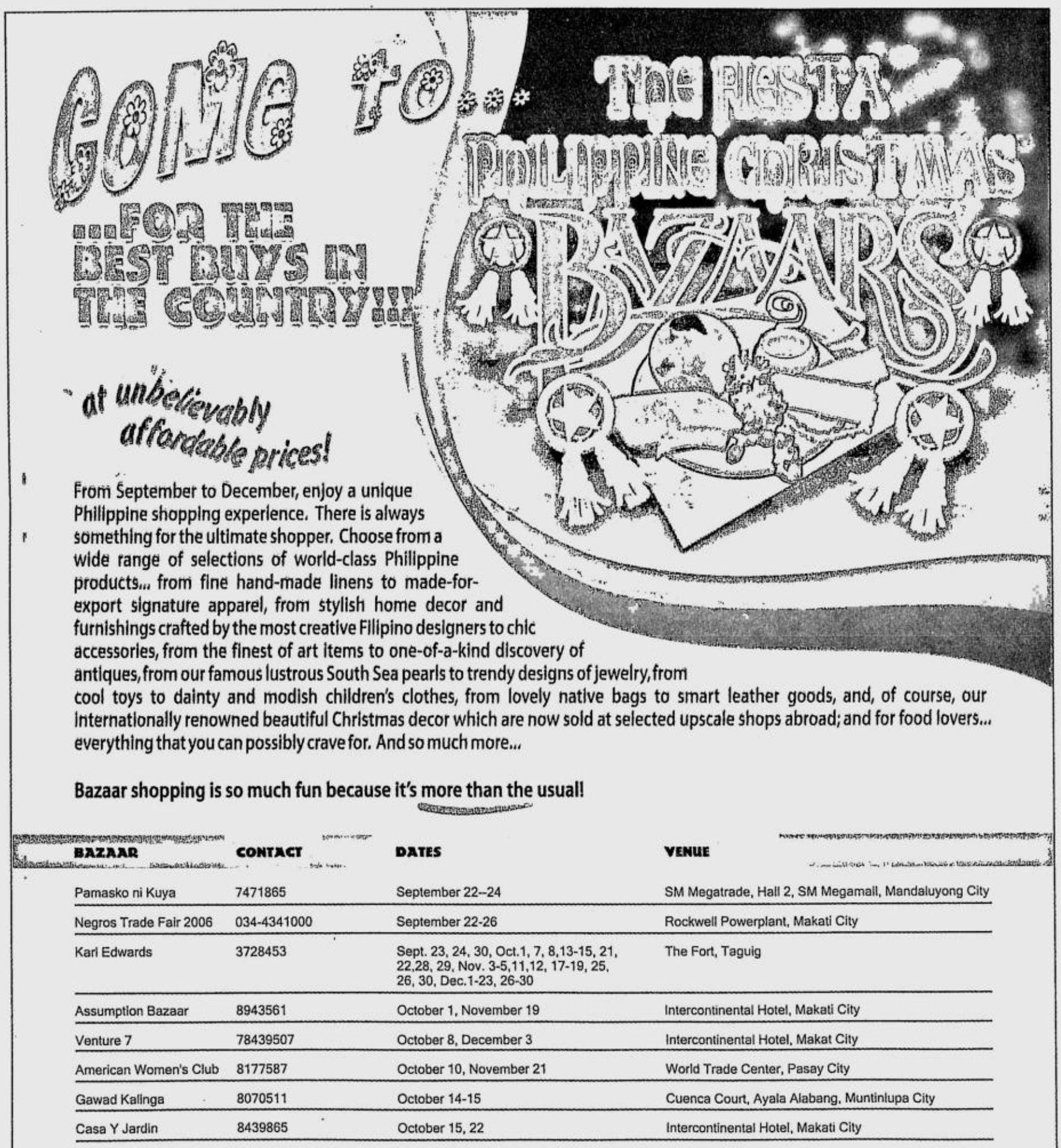
The four-page complaint sheet, prepared by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the National Bureau of Investigation, was based on the statements of two renegade Magdalo soldiers who implicated Recto as the one who funded the assassination plot against the governor.

Charged along with Recto were Magdalo lawyer Jose Christopher Belmonte, Christina Antonio, Betina Balderama, Army Lt. Angelbert Gay, 2Lt. Aldrin Baldonado, Navy Lt. Kiram Sadava and six other persons identified only by their aliases.

In his affidavit, Army 1Lt. Patricio Bumidang said he met Recto in a meeting with Magdalo leaders in a subdivision in Quezon City where the assassination of Sanchez was allegedly hatched.

Sadava, on the other hand, identified Belmonte as the head of a team who purportedly patterned the governor's movements prior to the bombing of the governor's vehicle.

Recto has vehemently denied the allegations against him and even pointed to Sanchez as the real criminal. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



Relatives say troops manhandled 20 boys

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ARMY SOLDIERS supposedly helping in the anti-illegal drugs campaign allegedly beat up 20 boys in San Miguel, Bulacan this week.

The latest victims, four boys, were battered and taken to the hospital for treatment, according to their relatives who called the INQUIRER.

Being minors, their names will not be printed in this report. Relatives did not want their names published either for fear of reprisal.

Soldiers continued to hit one of the boys even as the parents pleaded that their son has a heart ailment, it was learned.

According to the relatives, the physical abuse took place inside the village hall in Barangay San Vicente in San Miguel. The boys admitted they were hooked on shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) in a bid to stop the beatings, they said.

"That's only a practice," one of the parents quoted a Sergeant Villados as telling the boys.

Other suspected shabu users were ordered to cut grass in an open lot next to the barangay hall and the nearby day care center.

"The village chief was helpless," one of the parents said. The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach the barangay captain.

Mayor Edmundo Buencamino said no formal complaints have reached him or the local police, although he lives right in the same village. In the phone interview, he said he would have the reports investigated.

Buencamino said the soldiers assigned to the village came from the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion. The soldiers arrived on Sunday and set up a detachment at the barangay hall, he said.

The battalion commander, Col. Noel Clement, said no complaints have been filed at the Army or the police. He was in San Miguel town when the INQUIRER called and promised to investigate.

Troops are known to be in the area mainly for the intensified counterinsurgency campaign, which began in Bulacan last June.

In San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, the Army on Thursday reported the surrender of 568 people who claimed to be members of the barangay revolutionary committees in at least 11 villages there.

The mass surrender started on Sept. 1 and was facilitated by the police, according to Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala, commander of the 48th Infantry Battalion.

During the same period, he said the residents turned over 320 firearms, mostly revolvers and rifles.

According to Kakilala, the "mass surrender would isolate the New People's Army and enhance our intelligence network."

"This would also encourage the businessmen in San Jose City, Metro Manila and even abroad to invest in the city since the enemy's massive extortion activities are a thing of the past," he said.

On Sept. 22, the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP) and its partners are launching the Central Luzon Caravan for peace, hope and human rights that will culminate at the cathedral in San Jose City. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon Desk*

From 'Ka Jasmin' in underground to activist for good governance

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

FROM revolutionary to good governance activist, a path narrated in this book.
TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Martial rule, no matter how repressive it was, changed Oscar Rodriguez from a revolutionary to a good governance activist.

That theme rang during a tribute by the mayor's friends and supporters on Tuesday night for his 61st birthday. The event launched the Filipino translation of his autobiography, "About Oca, A Story of Struggle."

Born in Santa Ana, Pampanga, one of the strongest bases of the Huk rebellion, Rodriguez wringed his way out of poverty by working in the farm, at the canteen of a relative in this city and then as a court stenographer.

The spirit of that peasant rebellion, as well as the revolutionary temper brought about by the First Quarter Storm and martial law, caught up with him.

In the Communist Party of the Philippines, Rodriguez was known as "Ka Jasmin" who organized students and workers while he worked in a local court.

Military operations in Pampanga aborted Rodriguez's plans to join the armed struggle, a chapter in the book written by Caesar Lacson said.

Rodolfo Salas, former CPP chair and commander of the New People's Army, confirmed Rodriguez's involvement in the underground movement at that time.

Prison life

Rodriguez was arrested by government agents in his house in December 1973 and thrown at the Camp Olivas stockade for six months. There, he said, food was unfit for human consumption and the common toilet for some 500 political prisoners was a tin can.

In prison, he started reviewing for the bar while at the same time "lawyered" for fellow inmates.

One Colonel Casaclang of the Judge Advocate General's Office set him free.

Rodriguez remembered Casaclang as telling him: "There really is a lot of evidence to warrant your further detention. I decided to let you go when I learned you were a government employee and you intended to take the bar. You have a great future ahead of you. Don't let it go to waste."

Law study

Returning to work at the Court of First Instance in Caloocan City, Rodriguez resumed his review on borrowed books.

He and a handful of young lawyers organized the Movement for the Advancement of Young Advocates of Pampanga (Mayap) after he passed the bar in 1975. The group was to become the core of the Free Legal Assistance Group, which defended political activists.

The snap presidential elections of 1986 saw him on the side of Corazon Aquino, through her ally Bren Z. Guiao, who later became Pampanga governor. Rodriguez and Mayap, according to various accounts, averted election cheating and violence in the province.

Rodriguez became provincial administrator and joined politics. He served four times as representative of Pampanga's third district and took up agrarian reform, education and civil rights as major advocacies while leading the fight against the national government's plan to consign Pampanga to destructive lahar flows.

Former Speaker and now Senate President Manuel Villar acknowledged Rodriguez as a "major key player" in the impeachment of former President Joseph Estrada in 2000.

Villar, in a video testimony, said that was not only in Rodriguez's capacity as prosecutor during the trial but also as chair of the House committee on justice to which the impeachment complaint passed.

In December 2005, on his first term as mayor, the London-based research group City Mayors announced Rodriguez's topping the search for outstanding mayors from out of 550 mayors in the world.

"Perhaps it was providential destiny," Rodriguez said of the route he took.

Good governance, his current activism, is realized with the Institute for Solidarity in Asia led by former Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao.

San Fernando has been declared public governance system (PGS)-compliant by ISA in August this year.

As ISA fellow, Rodriguez is helping other mayors understand and practice the PGS system, Estanislao said.

"Come to think of it, revolution has many routes and forms. You can bring positive changes against injustices and poverty wherever you are," Rodriguez said.

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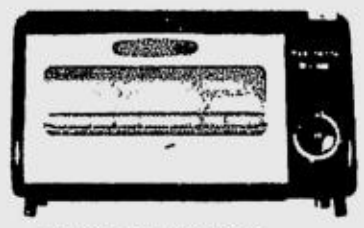
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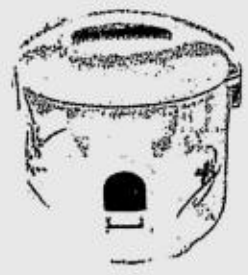
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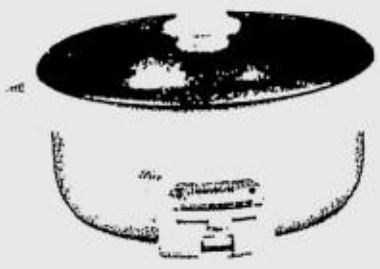
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Condi defends Joc-joc detention

By Philip C. Tubeza

US SECRETARY OF STATE CONdoleezza Rice and other high-ranking American officials have maintained that the detention of former agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante in the US is legal and asked a Wisconsin court to junk his petition for habeas corpus.

In a 12-page memorandum, Rice and her fellow respondents asked the US district court to dismiss Bolante's petition for "lack of jurisdiction." They questioned their inclusion in the suit and said Bolante should have impleaded only his immediate custodians—like the warden of Kenosha county jail, where Bolante is currently detained.

Besides Rice, the other respondents were US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Chicago director Deborah Achim.

"The respondents seek dismissal of this habeas petition in as much as Bolante is an arriving alien (or somebody without valid entry papers), as such his remedy is to seek parole from the field office director and to seek bond via the immigration court, and there is no jurisdiction for habeas relief under these circumstances," said the memo filed on Sept. 12.

"His detention pending his removal proceedings is legal,"they asserted.

Lawyer H. Harry Roque Jr., who gave the INQUIRER a copy of the memo, said he has yet to receive word about what happened during the first hearing of the Wisconsin court last Sept. 20.

Bolante was arrested on July 7 upon his arrival in Los Angeles. He was told that his visa had been canceled by the US Embassy in Manila due to an arrest warrant issued by the Philippine Senate for his failure to appear at hearings on the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

The money was allegedly used to fund President Macapagal-Arroyo's election campaign in 2004.

"The Supreme Court has already decided the constitutional issues raised by the petitioner. Specifically, the Court found that no constitutional right is violated when an alien is detained for the brief period of his removal proceedings," the memo said.

The memo said Bolante should have waited for the Chicago immigration judge to rule on the legality of the cancellation of his US B1/B2 visa before raising the issue in Wisconsin.

"By asking this Court to consider the process which led to his visa revocation, Bolante seeks to usurp the function of the immigration proceedings and in effect challenge his removability contrary to the statutory framework," it added.

The memo also said that the Chicago immigration judge "did not have the authority" to grant Bolante bail.

Roque yesterday gave the INQUIRER a copy of a Sept. 13 order from the Chicago judge stating that his court "does not have jurisdiction over bond for an arriving alien."

AFP seeks P31-B budget to fight Reds

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES is asking Congress for an internal security operations budget of almost P31 billion so it can crush the communist New People's Army by 2010.

Under the proposed national defense budget for 2007, the AFP said it would need P30.9 billion to deal with internal security threats.

The amount forms the bulk of the P49.3-billion 2007 proposed defense budget and is P2.45 billion, or 8.61 percent, more than the internal security budget this year.

According to the Department of National Defense, the increase reflects the military's heightened focus on internal security operations, necessarily reflected in increased requirements for ammunition, aircraft, armored vehicles and vessel repair and maintenance.

"This will enable the AFP to fulfill its commitment to neutralize the communist terrorist movement by 2010 according to the President's instructions," it said.

2nd largest

The second largest allocation in the 2007 defense budget will go to "force level command and control, support and training," amounting to P15 billion.

"This increase will enhance defense planning, strategy development, execution, and command and management of operations," the DND said.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said the defense establishment was gunning for a "strategic victory" over the NPA by 2010.

He said this can be achieved as the communist insurgency's armed regulars now numbered just under 7,000, down from a high of 12,500 in 2000.

"From 2001 to the present, there has been a decline in its armed strength by about 14 percent a year. They're now down to below 7,000," Cruz told the House appropriations committee.

He cited DND intelligence reports showing that the insurgency peaked in 1987 when communist armed regulars numbered 26,500.

But with the ouster of the Marcos dictatorship and the return of democracy, the NPA's strength steadily declined from 1987 to 1997, when it only had around 5,000 regulars, Cruz said.

He said this led the government at the time to declare a strategic victory over the communist rebels so that the responsibility of dealing with internal security threats was transferred to the police, leaving the military to deal only with external threats.

However, the NPA succeeded in halting its decline and even regained its strength after 1997.

Resurgence

Cruz attributed the communist resurgence after 1997 to the Asian financial crisis and governance issues during the Estrada administration.

The insurgency reached a strength of 12,500 regulars in 2000 before steadily declining again in the past five to six years, he said.

Cruz cited four factors for declining strength—economic resurgence in the countryside, better local governance and leadership, public disgust with terrorism as a method of achieving one's goals, and the failure of the communist economic model.

Left-leaning party-list legislator Satur Ocampo challenged Cruz's claim that the NPA's strength had declined.

He said even at its peak in 1987, the NPA only numbered around 7,000 when Ocampo was a peace negotiator of the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the Communist Party.

"My information at that time was that the actual forces of the NPA never, never got to 25,000. That's a bloated figure," Ocampo said.

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Basketball team manager suspends coach

Sanction to give Victoria time to respond to sex rap

By DJ Yap

EMMANUEL "BOYBITS" VICTORIA HAS been suspended as a coach of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

The team manager of the Coca Cola Tigers yesterday announced that management was placing Victoria under preventive suspension to give him time to respond to a bar manager's charges that he had made unwanted sexual advances toward her.

"Although he is innocent until proven otherwise, we deemed it proper to suspend him, as there was already a case filed against him," Hector Calma said in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER.

Victoria, a former basketball player who now works as an assistant coach for the Tigers, has been accused of fondling the 26-year-old woman and making lewd proposals to her on July 14 and 15 in a bar she manages on E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue in Bagumbayan, Quezon City.

On Tuesday, the woman filed charges of acts of lasciviousness against him at the Quezon City prosecutor's office. She also sought P700,000 in damages and lawyer's fees.

Calma said the team would conduct its own investigation of the incident.

"This suspension will be in effect until such time that Victoria has been cleared of any wrongdoing," he added.

"It is the company's policy not to tolerate any misconduct among members of its ball club who are supposed to be role models and ambassadors of goodwill," Calma said.

Restaurant loses payroll to robbers

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IN BROAD DAYLIGHT AND IN THE middle of a usually busy street in Pasig City, three robbers held up employees of a restaurant on Wednesday and carted away more than P271,000 in payroll money.

A traffic enforcer tried to run after the suspects who struck in front of the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra), but they were able to escape on board a motorcycle.

Bank withdrawal

Police said Ma. Linda Cristobal and Joselito Jacosalem, employees of World Spices International Cuisine restaurant, had gone to the Equitable-PCI Bank on Shaw Boulevard in Barangay Kapitolyo on Wednesday morning to withdraw money.

On their way back to their office at the Linden Suites on San Miguel Avenue, three men on a motorcycle blocked the multicab the two were riding in at the corner of Henry Javier and St. Martin Streets.

Two of the men got off, aimed their guns at Cristobal and grabbed the two brown envelopes containing the P271,000 in cash they had withdrawn from the bank.

The money was for the salaries of the restaurant's workers, Chief Insp. Rolando Vilar told the INQUIRER.

DID YOU KNOW

IN 1974, Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City was renamed Don Mariano Marcos Avenue—after the father of former President Ferdinand Marcos—through Quezon City Resolution 10125.

In June 2004, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III introduced Senate Bill 495, which sought to change the name of the thoroughfare to Bishop Felix Manalo Avenue in honor of the late founder of Iglesia ni Cristo. The bill, however, is still pending before the Senate committee on rules.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Starting of submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application of Eligibility	Sept. 25-Sept. 29, 2006
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 02, 2006
3. Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 13, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	Oct. 20, 2006

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules And Regulations of the Republic Act 9184.
2. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms at Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of prescribed non-refundable fee of PESOS: Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00).
3. Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address.
4. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished technical and financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes before the deadline of submission of bids.
5. BAC Committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
6. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not to award the contract; and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **DANTE B. BERMEJO**
Chairman
BAC Committee

(PDI–Sept. 19 & 22, 2006)

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Pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act No. 6657, the following landowners are hereby notified that their properties hereunder listed, to wit:

	LANDOWNER	LOCATION	TITLE NO.	LOT NO.	AREA	DATE OF OCULAR INSPECTION
1.	Loreto Forest Land Developers, Incorporated	San Martin, Prosperidad	P-9816	SWO-10-000170	629,9999	10/16-18/06
2.	Sta. Irene Agro Forest Development Corporation	Mabuhay, Prosperidad	P-9814	SWO-10-000 169/Psd-100306-019078 (AR)	706.1901	10/19/06
3.	Esperanza Agro Forest Development Corporation	Mabuhay, Prosperidad	P-9818	SWO-10-000165	864.4925	10/20/06
4.	Gerarda Tejero (NAIDCOR)	Sta. Maria, Prosperidad	P-8741	139,GSS-1000	6.2500	10/23/06
5.	Eleonor Saniel (NAIDCOR)	Sta. Maria, Prosperidad	P-9827	134,GSS-1000	6.7099	10/23/06
6.	Exequil Magsaysay (NAIDCOR)	Los Arcos, Prosperidad	T-1593 N-1509	1902,Pls-43	9.3649	10/24/06
7.	Carmen Mapeso	El Rio, Sibagat	T-6556	90,GSS-840	5.3221	10/25/06
8.	Carmen Mapeso	El Rio, Sibagat	T-2270	91,GSS-840	1.3669	10/25/06
9.	Carmen Mapeso	El Rio, Sibagat	P-2307	92,GSS-840	10.8108	10/25/06
10.	Domingo Dagani	Causwagan, Sibagat	P-1443	143,Pls-223	8.0419	10/26/06
	TOTAL				2,248.5490	

are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program under DAR Administrative Order No. 4, Series of 2005, the right to choose the area to be retained must be exercised within thirty (30) days from the date of Publication of the Notice of Coverage. Failure to exercise this right of retention within the prescribed period shall be considered as a waiver of the right/privilege to apply for exemption/exclusion or retention, nominate children as beneficiaries or submit evidence determining just compensation.

Under Executve Order No. 405, we shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines to determine the reasonable Land Value of the said properties being acquired pursuant to Section 17, of Republic Act 6657.

September 19, 2006.

(Sgd.) **MARINO M. GAYRAMON**
Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II

(PDI – September 22, 2006)

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Dr. Margie Holmes invades cyberspace

Noted clinical psychologist to offer advice on sex online

By DJ Yap

PERHAPS MORE THAN ANYbody else, Dr. Margarita Holmes has succeeded in making the conservative Filipino think and talk about sex.

Over the years, her name has become synonymous with a frank discussion of human sexuality—from abortion to penile enlargement—in books, TV shows and newspaper columns.

But this time, the renowned clinical psychologist is taking her specialty to the worldwide web, where she will dish out her unique brand of sassy yet scientific advice to anyone with a modem.

On Tuesday, Holmes launched her website: www.margaritaholmes.com at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, where she also teaches psychology.

A place to listen

"It's a place where we can share advice, laughter, insights and questions to throw back to the audience ... Basically a place where we can listen and where there's an opportunity to also talk," Holmes said in an interview.

The interactive website features an "Ask Doctor Holmes" section, in which Internet users can ask her anything, from sexually transmitted infections to lesbian relationships.

"It helps that the Web gives us virtual anonymity. So, like in my newspaper columns, anyone can send his questions without fear or embarrassment," Holmes said.

She said the website would give her a wider audience so she could help more people in need of professional advice. But the website is not only about sharing information, it is also about baring one's heart and expressing an opinion, she added.

Honest sharing

"Some people pass off their opinion as fact. But here, it will be clear whether what I'm saying is science or opinion. It will be an honest sharing," Holmes said.

"I hope the website helps people examine their own emotions and acknowledge them," she told the INQUIRER.

UP psychology department chair Betty Ventura said Holmes should be lauded for her "serious outlook" on sexuality.

Higher plane

"She has raised the study of sexuality to an academic and scientific level. Part of her efforts has resulted in sexuality being an integral part in the study of personality," she said.

Holmes said that she would probably answer only two questions a week on her online advice column because of her busy schedule.

After a certain number of days, she will choose the most interesting question and feature it, along with her reply, on the website.

During the open forum, Holmes gave the audience a sample of her liberal views on gender dynamics.

Responding to a question on the concept of virginity, she said: "There's an old Filipino custom saying virginity is the greatest gift a woman can give her husband ..."

"(But I say) is that all you have? What about humor, intelligence? Aren't those important?" Holmes said.

"Who would you consider a virgin: A 3-year-old girl who was raped by her uncle, or a teenager whose hymen is intact but has gone down on the entire basketball, football and hockey teams?" she said.

Aside from the advice section, the website has a forum section where Internet users can share just "about anything under the sun."

Interactivity

"The Web is no longer just about connectivity. Now it's about interactivity," said Ian Fulgar, chief executive officer of Ivertise, which operates the website.

"This is the reason Dr. Holmes wanted to have a website: So she can reach out to more people," he added.

Ivertise's Leil Gapol said the website, designed by Alex Betonio, became operational at 4 p.m. on Tuesday. "The site was intended to be user friendly. Anyone can access it and type in a question," she said.

DR. MARGARITA Holmes describes her website as "a place where we can share advice, laughter and insights." AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Pakistani shot dead by security guard in Pasig City subdivision

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TWO GUNSHOTS SHATTERED the silence inside a guarded subdivision in Pasig City yesterday afternoon after a security guard allegedly shot dead a 65-year-old Pakistani man.

Investigators who rushed to the scene found businessman Yousuf Saeed lying lifeless in the parking lot, in front of the Belson Manor Building on Firefly Street, Valle Verde 6 Subdivision in Barangay Ugong.

Heated argument

Police said building guard Danilo Celso, 46, of the Cavisa Security Agency, had shot Saeed at the height of an argument.

Saeed, who lived with his wife in one of the more than 40 units at the building, where he was also homeowners president, had just emerged from the building at about 1 p.m. yesterday.

Suddenly, a painter working on the upper floor heard Saeed arguing with Celso, who was inside a guard post in front of the building.

"The victim was pointing at the security guard. But I did not hear what they were talking about," the witness told the INQUIRER.

The painter went inside the building and then heard two gunshots seconds later. He looked out and saw Saeed already slumped on the ground.

Saeed sustained a gunshot wound under his left armpit and another in the back. Police theorized he was shot at close range first. He tried to walk away—this was deduced through drops of blood a few feet away from the guard post—but he was shot again, this time in the back, the police added.

As Saeed fell down, Celso was seen outside his post, walking aimlessly and looking shocked, according to another resident.

Police said Celso ran to the back of the building, climbed a fence and escaped, allegedly bringing with him his .38-caliber handgun.

Suspect 'a good man'

"(Celso) was a good man," a woman told the INQUIRER, saying she was surprised the security guard, who had been in charge of the building for almost two years, could harm someone.

"He probably felt that enough was enough. Saeed would always insult him. Saeed looked down on him," the woman added.

The victim's nephew, Joseph Aragon, said Saeed was probably on his way to fetch his wife Rowena at the Manila Electric Company Compound on Ortigas Avenue, where she worked as a nurse.

Saeed had been living at the condominium for more than two decades and he had never spoken about having any enemy, Aragon added.

Makati sprouts 'Justice for Glean' posters

By Tarra V. Quismundo

POSTERS SEEKING JUSTICE FOR Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay's slain security chief were posted all over the financial center yesterday.

The posters, which were put up on lamp posts lining the city streets, showed a black and white photo of Pablo Glean, after he was shot dead by four men in front of a gas station inside Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City last Saturday.

Written on the poster were the messages "*Katarungan para kay Lito Glean* (Justice for Lito Glean)" and "*Walang Atrasan* (No Turning Back)."

Friends' initiative

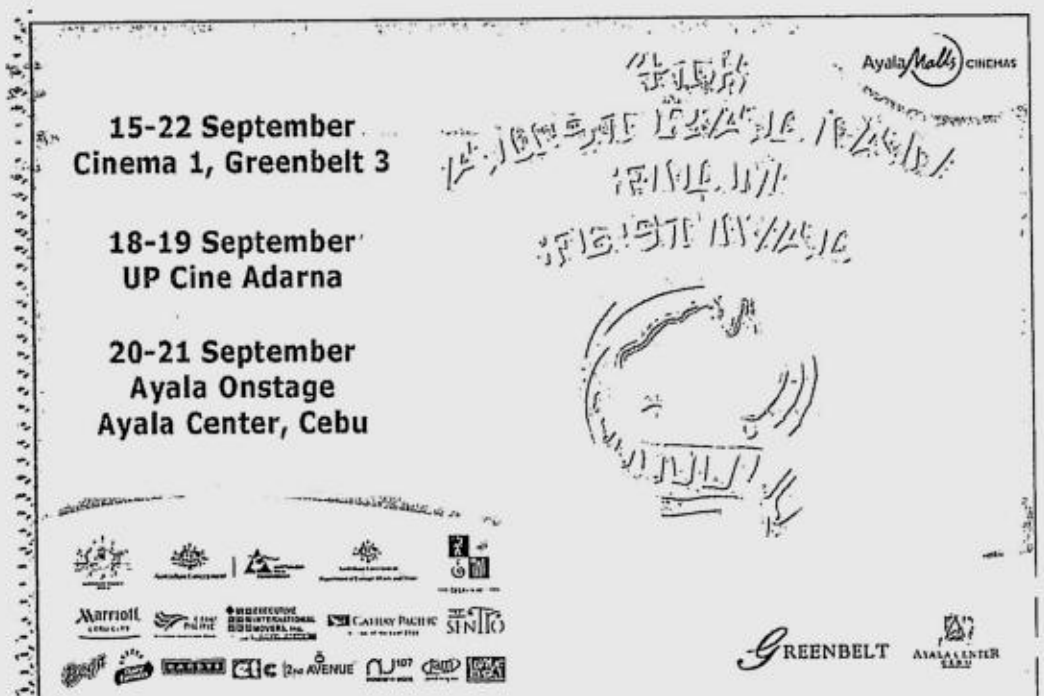
"His friends decided to come out with it. It's a way of expressing their indignation and to call attention to the crime," said Joey Salgado, the city's Information and Community Relations Department chief.

Asked if Binay supported the campaign, Salgado said, "He will give his support to any effort to uncover the truth ... the real situation."

Binay had earlier said he would tap human rights groups to look into Glean's slay, which he blamed on two groups—Oplan Phoenix and Task Force Spider—which were allegedly carrying out "special operations" against opposition leaders.

"We intend to bring this matter to the attention of groups that investigate political killings like Amnesty International and the Commission on Human Rights so they could investigate this well and look into Oplan Phoenix and Task Force Spider," he told reporters.

Glean will be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on Saturday morning. Binay said the body would be brought today to Makati City Hall for necrological services.



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Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(DND-Proper Procurement of Goods)

I. The Department of National Defense, through DND-Proper Bid and Awards Committee, invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Re-bidding for Various Supplies/Materials:

Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
A. Office Supplies	Assorted Office Supplies for OSND	PhP 891,394.75
B. Computer Supplies	Assorted Computer Supplies for OSND	523,786.40
C. Other Supplies	Loyalty Ring for OSND Personnel	385,200.00
D. ICT Spare Parts	Assorted ICT Spare Parts for OSND	1,491,098.50
E. Janitorial Supplies	Assorted Janitorial Supplies for OSND	515,214.05
F. Vehicle Spare Parts	Assorted Vehicle Spare Parts for OSND	2,307,875.70
G. Subscription of Periodicals	Assorted Foreign Magazines and Local Newspapers	1,177,000.00
	TOTAL	Php 7,291,569.40

II. The schedule of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	Procurement Branch, OAS Bldg., DND	15 September 2006 to 12 October 2006	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	OASA Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Bldg	02 October 2006	9:30 AM
Deadline for Submission / Opening of Bids	OASA Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Bldg	13 October 2006	9:30 AM
Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003		
Post-Qualification			
Issuance of Notice of Award			

III. Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount as indicated below to the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat, Procurement Branch, Office of Administrative Services, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Tel. No. 911-8118:

PROJECT	COST OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS
A. Office Supplies	Php 900.00
B. Computer Supplies	500.00
C. Other Supplies	400.00
D. ICT Spare Parts	1,500.00
E. Janitorial Supplies	500.00
F. Vehicle Spare Parts	2,300.00
G. Subscription of Periodicals	1,200.00

Bidders who have secured the bidding documents in the previous bidding in any of the above projects may no longer secure new bidding documents but they are encouraged to get updates from the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat.

IV. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A).

V. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or suppliers who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement projects they wish to participate.

VI. The OSND assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

VII. The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee (DND-Proper BAC).

VII. The invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org. and the DND website, in accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. Further, it shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) ASSISTANT SECRETARY RUBEN F CIRON
Chairman, DND-Proper BAC

(PDI – September 15 & 22, 2006)

METRO-BRIEFS

Recaptured

TWO OF THE FIVE prisoners who escaped from a police detention cell in Caloocan City last week have been recaptured. Faustino Sampang and Marvin Rubio were arrested in Pangasinan by operatives of the Quezon City police on Wednesday. The two, however, accused PO3 Giovannie Fuentes and PO3 Conrado Punzalan, members of the Northern Police District Investigation and Intelligence Division (DIID), of arresting them on false charges. The prisoners said that the two lawmen had approached them in Monumento and ordered them to steal a cellular phone. When they refused, they were arrested and charged with illegal possession of bladed weapons.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Tragic death

A 2-YEAR-OLD girl was killed after she was accidentally ran over by a delivery truck in Pasig City on Wednesday morning. SPO3 Alexander Galang told the INQUIRER the victim, Bea Valeria Jadloc, ran out of their house on Jeny's Avenue in Barangay Rosario and was hit by the truck.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

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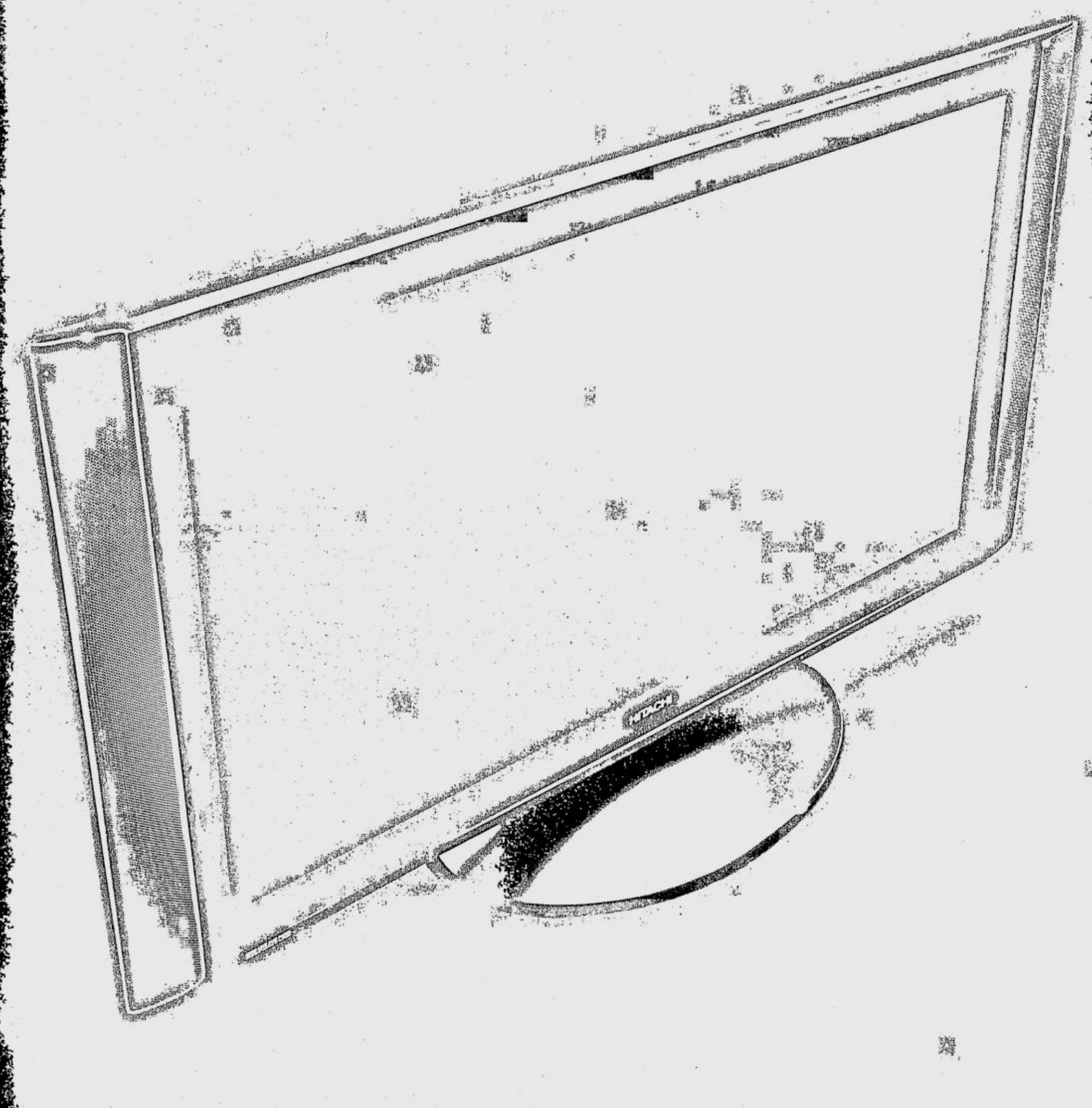

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Non-Muslims assail new clarification

VATICAN CITY—MUSLIMS ANGRY ABOUT POPE Benedict XVI's remarks on Islam are not the only ones talking about an apology.

"What should he apologize for?" asked Daniele Corbetta, 43, a psychologist in Rome. "There is freedom of speech, and what he said is objectively true."

There was low-grade seething where Corbetta stood, with thousands of pilgrims and tourists in St. Peter's Square on Wednesday, as Benedict again addressed a speech in which he had quoted a medieval emperor who called Islam "evil and inhuman."

Three days after saying he was "very sorry" about the reaction to his remarks, delivered last week, Benedict sought to clarify them again.

Benedict said that he did not intend to endorse a negative view of Islam when he quoted the emperor during last week's trip to Germany, but fell short of issuing the apology still demanded by some Muslim leaders who were offended by his remarks.

Benedict acknowledged that his remarks—which sparked fury across the Muslim world—were open to misinterpretation. He expressed "deep respect" for Islam and called for dialogue among religions, in a speech that drew repeated applause from the faithful.

"I hope that in several occasions during the visit ... my deep respect for great religions, in particular for Muslims—who worship the one God and with whom we are engaged in defending and promoting together social justice, moral values, peace and freedom for all men—has emerged clearly," Benedict said.

"This quote unfortunately lent itself to be misunderstood," the pontiff said Wednesday, in comments that he repeated in several languages. "For the careful reader of my text, however, it is clear that in no way did I wish to make my own the negative words of the medieval emperor."

"I wished to explain that not religion and violence, but religion and reason go together," he added.

POPE Benedict XVI at Saint Peter's Square in the Vatican Sept. 20. REUTERS

"I trust that after the initial reaction, my words at the University of Regensburg can constitute an impulse and encouragement toward positive, even self-critical dialogue both among religions and between modern reason and Christian faith," the pontiff said.

But in the crowd here on Wednesday, and around much of the world that is not Muslim, there were voices like Corbetta's, saying the pope did not need to keep explaining himself.

"It's about time that somebody from the Western, Judaeo-Christian religions finally came out stating that some of the teachings of Muhammad are used violently," said Steven Gottesfeld, an American Jew who attended the papal audience.

For some Catholics, Benedict's speech—for all its complexity and all that remains unclear about what he meant to say—was a turning point in his pontificate and, perhaps, a historic moment of clarity. They say that just as Pope John Paul II played an important role in ending communism, maybe Benedict's role will be in speaking against militant Islam.

Some supporters of the pope say he absolutely should not issue the further apology that many Muslims are demanding. For them, his use of the words "very sorry" on Sunday already gave the impression of retreat.

"By apologizing and backing away a little, he was encouraging more of the violence and anger on the streets," said Edward Morrissey, who this week posted an "open letter" to Benedict on his blog, Captain's Quarters, urging the pope not to apologize further. "It's the nature of radicalism that if you give an inch, they will take a mile," he said in an interview. "That's why I wanted to say: Don't go any further." *New York Times, AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Crackdown in Hungary

BUDAPEST—Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany on Wednesday vowed to crack down on rioters after a second night of clashes here, with police blaming the violence on football hooligans and extreme right-wing groups. "We will have no patience with them," Gyurcsany told a Cabinet meeting, referring to hundreds of demonstrators who clashed with police in the worst street protests to hit Hungary since the fall of communism in 1989. "The government will hold firm on the only track possible: the policies of reform to ensure development and economic stability," the Socialist Party leader told the meeting, which was open to the press. Despite the warnings of a crackdown, a crowd of more than 1,000 demonstrators had gathered Wednesday evening in front of the Hungarian parliament, chanting slogans for Gyurcsany to step down. The 44-year-old premier, who led his country into the European Union in 2004, has come under increasing pressure to resign after he was caught admitting that he lied over the state of the economy in order to win reelection. The right-wing opposition Fidesz Party, which is currently riding high in the opinion polls, said Gyurcsany should quit office before local elections due Oct. 1. For the second night in a row, police used tear gas and water cannons early Wednesday to disperse protestors, who hurled bottles and other objects at the security forces and set fire to a police car and garbage cans. Earlier in the evening 10,000 people had demonstrated peacefully outside the parliament calling on the prime minister to quit. *AFP*

New Japan PM gets to work

TOKYO—Japan's hawkish next prime minister Shinzo Abe got to work Thursday on his 52nd birthday amid warnings he must overcome a lack of experience to survive in the shadow of Junichiro Koizumi. Abe, who will be Japan's youngest prime minister and the first born after World War II, started his job as leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) by visiting former LDP premiers to seek their support. "I feel refreshed," Abe told reporters, one day after overwhelmingly winning a party vote to succeed Koizumi as LDP president. Abe will assume office Tuesday in a special session of parliament, where the LDP holds a majority. Newspapers warned that Abe has much to prove after replacing the popular Koizumi, who stayed in power for more than five years and rammed through far-reaching economic reforms. *AFP*

Zuma corruption case

JOHANNESBURG—A judge threw out corruption charges on Wednesday against South Africa's charismatic former deputy leader Jacob Zuma, clearing the path for him to launch a bid to succeed President Thabo Mbeki. Four months after being cleared of rape, the 64-year-old Zuma once again emerged triumphant from court to crowds of cheering supporters. "I said I was innocent, I am still saying I am innocent, I will repeat it tomorrow," Zuma told supporters. The ruling by Judge Herbert Msimang places Zuma in pole position to replace Mbeki next year as head of the ruling ANC and then as president in 2009. *AFP*

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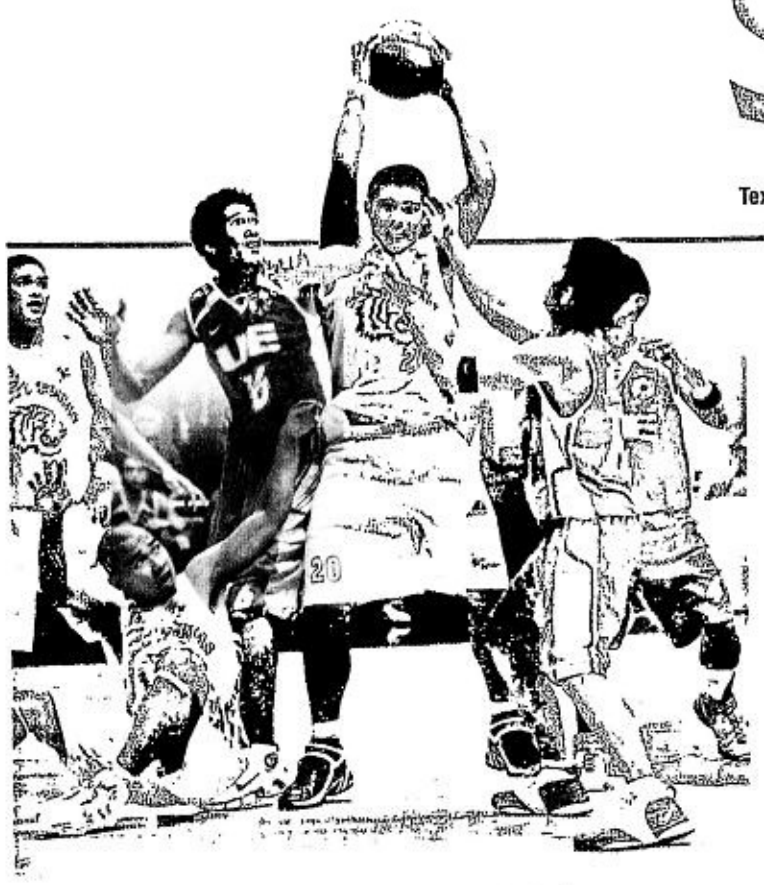


JERVY Cruz of UST gets triple teamed by the UE Warriors. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Hungry Lions try anew versus Dolphins today

GAME TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
3:30 p.m. — PCU vs San Beda (Game 3)
Series at a glance:
Game 1 — San Beda 71, PCU 57
Game 2 — PCU 70, San Beda 52

SAN BEDA'S TITLE-HUNGRY RED LIONS and Philippine Christian's unsinkable Dolphins collide for the last time today in a rubber match for the NCAA men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

After splitting the first two games of the best-of-three title series with impressive victories, it will all boil down to who needs the crown most when they clash at 3:30 p.m.

The Lions seemed close to ending their 28-year title hunt after taking the championship series opener at 71-57, but the Dolphins, who are gunning for a second crown in three years, blasted San Beda's bubble of invincibility with a 70-52 rout last Wednesday.

The Lions never had it so good in terms of manpower and they seemed destined to win the crown they last wore in 1978, years before this year's key men Samuel Ekwe, Pong Escobal and Yousif Aljamal were born, by racking up 13 wins. Now the momentum is on the Dolphins' side.

HUNGRY/ A24

Tigers oust Warriors, seal duel with Eagles

By Jasmine W. Payo

CALL IT WHAT YOU WANT— LUCK, DIVINE intervention, heart.

It doesn't matter.

The University of Santo Tomas Growling Tigers are where nobody ever expected them to be. They're in the finals.

Throwing away a double-digit lead and staring at a five-point deficit at endgame, the Tigers willed themselves to an 82-81 thriller over the favored University of the East Red Warriors in their knockout semifinal game at the Araneta Coliseum yesterday.

The scrambling victory set up an interesting finale in a season robbed of its favorite rivalry: the powerful Ateneo Blue Eagles against the Tigers, the season's longshot.

Defying the odds once again, the Tigers overcame the Warriors' twice-to-beat advantage, exploiting the absence of a key Warrior to forge a best-of-three title showdown against the Eagles starting Sunday.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES SUNDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
12 noon —UST vs FEU
(Women-Game 2)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs FEU
(Jrs-Game 2)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST
(Srs-Game 1)

Rookie sensation Jervy Cruz delivered another monstrous performance with 27 points and 18 rebounds.

But it was Jojo Duncil who sealed the win for the Tigers when he completed a game-clinching three-point play in the last 53.8 seconds

"I didn't promise anything, but I had big expectations for this team," said UST's rookie coach Pido Jarencio. "I just told them to give everything they have in this game."

TIGERS/ A24

Amacu rips STI for title

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AMA COMPUTER downed chief rival STI, 74-65, Wednesday to complete a sweep of the 2006 National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) men's basketball title at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

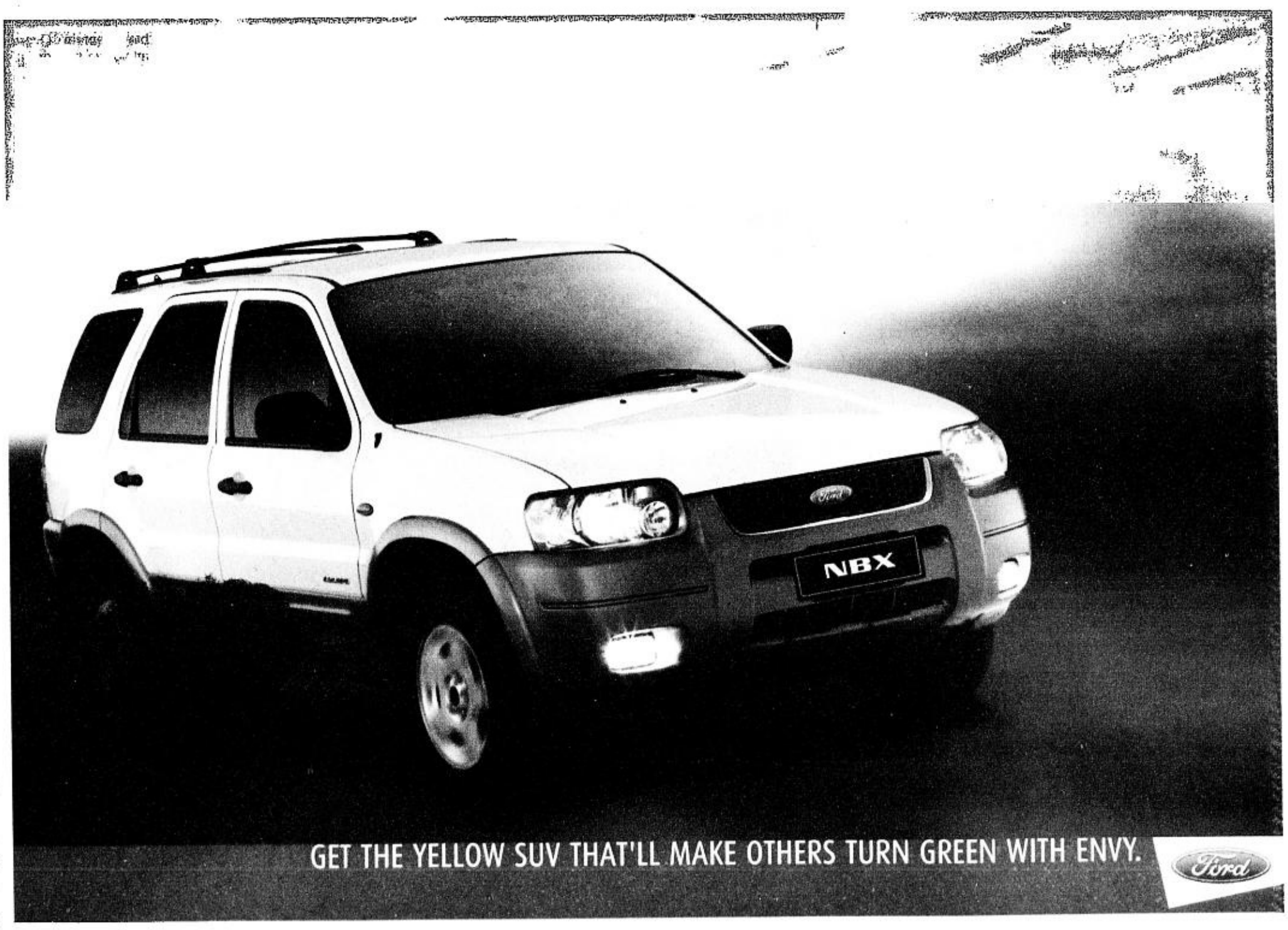
Forward Patrick Mercado and guard Robbie Zablan filled up the slack left by MVP winner Chito Jaime as the Titans upended the league's eliminations leader in the best-of-three title series.

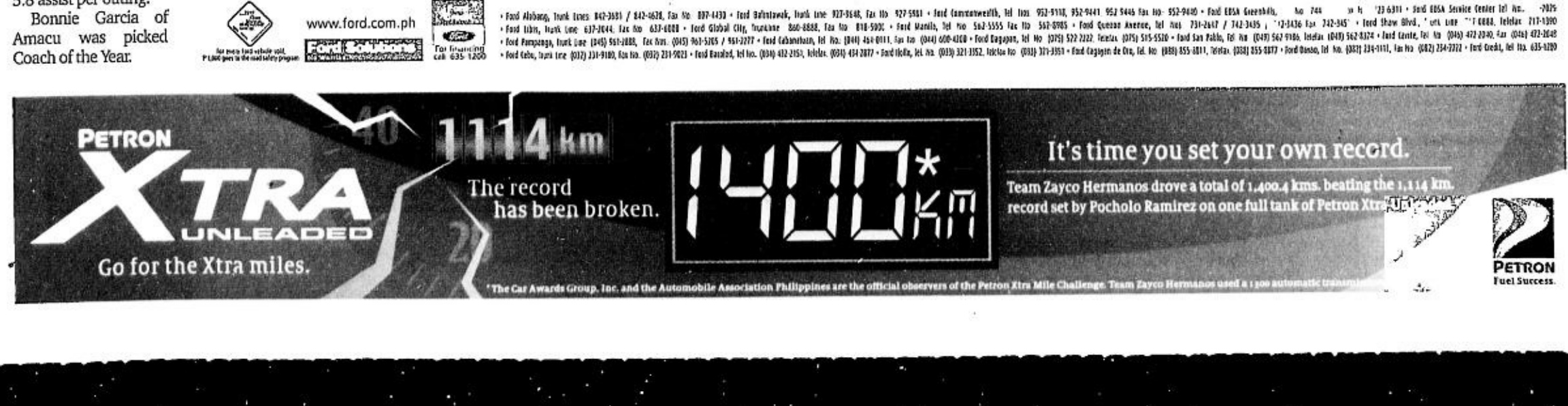
STI held the 6-foot-5 Jaime to only five points but Mercado scored 17 points and Zablan added 13 aside from keeping the Titans' transition game smoothly flowing.

The Bulacan-raised Jaime, who also took the top rebounder award, led the Mythical Team that included Mercado and Zablan and STI gunners Dexter Micutuan and John Macalma.

New Era's Jeff De Guzman emerged the scoring champion with an average of 21.6 points per game, while STI's Jun Perez proved best in assists with a 5.8 assist per outing.

Bonnie Garcia of Amacu was picked Coach of the Year.





MVP aide in Samahang Basketbol board a possibility, says Cojuangco

By Musong R. Castillo

MANNY V. PANGILINAN, THE TELEcommunications tycoon who declined to head the newly formed Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, may still have a hand in running its affairs.

COJUANGCO

The Smart and PLDT honcho is inclined to appointing a trusted representative in the board, according to Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco who had a telephone conversation with Pangilinan regarding the constitution and by-laws of the SBP recently.

"He (Pangilinan) told me that he could end up appointing someone," Cojuangco told the INQUIRER on Wednesday, just minutes after coming out of the POC's executive committee meeting at the Milky Way restaurant in Makati.

"There's no doubt that he is the best man for the job," added Cojuangco. Pangilinan had begged off from the offer to head the SBP made by Basketball Association of the Philippines president Joey Lina and Pilipinas Basketball's Bernie Atienza because of pressing duties with his various companies.

The SBP board is composed of 12 members each from the BAP and PB with Pangilinan as the 25th member.

Meanwhile, a source privy to what had transpired during the meetings of the three-man panel told the INQUIRER that "the new board will serve in a transitory capacity until 2008."

The source was reacting to an INQUIRER report on Cojuangco yesterday that stated a discrepancy in the new group which the former Tarlac representative cited.

"We were just pressed for time," the source said. "But after the end of next year, we will start molding the personalities who will comprise the (second batch of) board (members)."

The group is now trying to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission be fore applying for recognition with the POC.

Paeng, Jojo lead World Cup cast

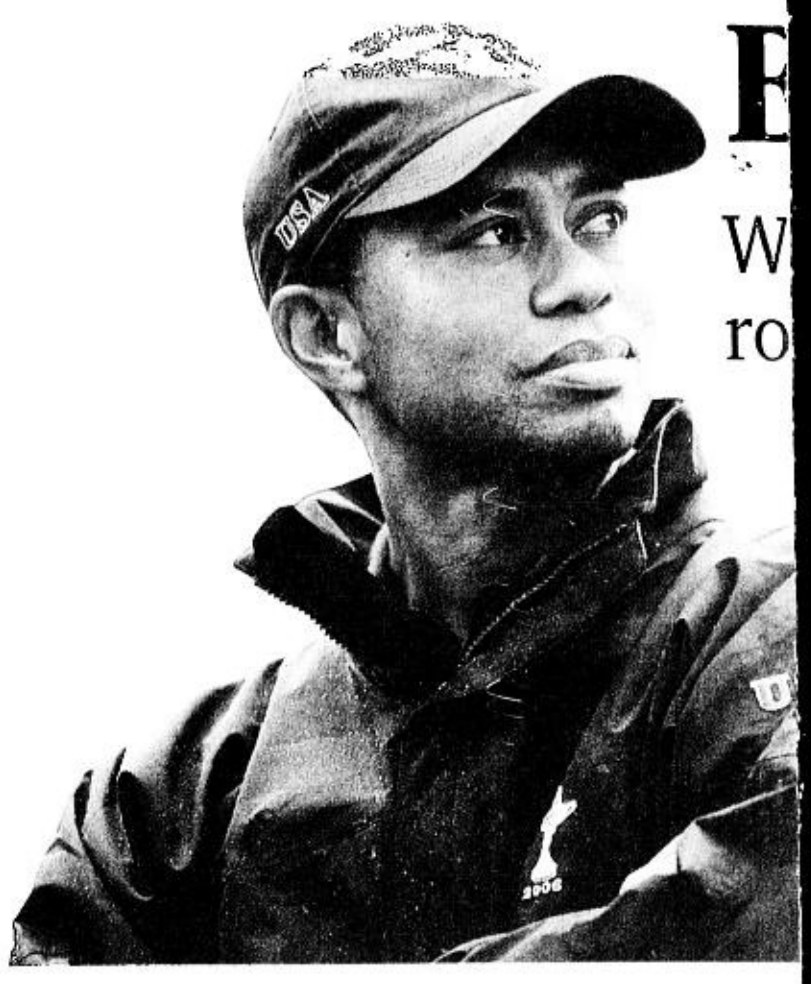
SIX-TIME WORLD TITLIST PAENG NEPOmuceno and newly crowned Asian Bowling Federation (Hong Kong) ladies' champion Jojo Canare head the cast in the World Cup national finals today at Coronado Lanes (Starlanes).

Canare and 68 other lady bowlers open their respective bids today, while Nepomuceno and 83 others will see action in the men's division starting tomorrow.

The champions (men and ladies) will carry the Philippine colors in the 42nd World Cup international finals set Nov. 4-10 in Caracas, Venezuela.

The ladies and male bowlers will play 10 and 12 games, respectively, with the top 34 advancing to the second round on Sept. 26 at Paeng's Midtown Bowl.

PHILIPPINE D
SPC



Tigers oust Warriors...

From page A23

The Tigers, who extended the semifinal series with a 79-75 victory in Game One, will march into the Finals for the first time in seven years. The Warriors risked their title-bid just to get a point across. Team officials suspended Bonbon Custodio, the Warriors' topnotch guard who averages a team-high 16.5 points per game for disciplinary reasons.

Carmelita Mateo, team manager and school executive vice president, said the decision was a "disciplinary measure based on infraction on certain team rules." No further explanation was given. The Tigers seized a 14-point lead early in the first half as the Warriors struggled to find a way to plug the offensive void left by Custodio's absence. But UE struck hard in the endgame, taking a five-point lead in the stretch.

Earlier, the Far Eastern Baby Tamaraws moved within a win away from claiming the junior crown with a 67-55 victory over the Ateneo Eaglets in Game 1 of their best-of-three series.

The women's title is also within reach for the UST Tigresses after Neri Noscal buried a buzzer-beating triple for a Game 1 triumph, 52-49, against the FEU Lady Tamaraws.

The scores:

Third Game (Srs)

UST 82—Cruz 27, Duncil 16, Espiritu 12, Evangelista 9, Cortez 7, Cuan 6, Taylor 4, Ababou 1, Canlas 0.

UE 81—Llagas 14, Arellano 14, Gregorio 13, Bandaying 8, Labagala 8, Thiele 4, Martinez 4, Espiritu 2, Canizares 1, Lingganay 0, Briones 0.

Quarters: 23-17, 43-38, 67-64, 82-81

Peña smashes into wall; Sy settles for 4th place

10th-Round Results

1. James Winslow (Eng) 16:55.558; 2. Ali Jackson (Ire) 16:59.700; 3. Moreno Soeprapto (Ina) 17:07.600; 4. Tyson Sy (RP) 17:08.482; 5. Rama Danindro (Ina) 17:14.164

BOGOR, INDONESIA—DADO PEÑA smashed into a concrete wall in qualifying session Thursday, knocking him out of Rounds 10 and 11 in the Asian Formula 3 Grand Prix series Thursday at the Sentul International Circuit here.

The 19-year-old Team Goddard driver came out of the accident unhurt, but was nevertheless brought to a hospital where he was given a clean bill of health.

At about the same time Peña was checking out of the hospital, James Winslow of England cruised to an easy victory, his second this season. Circuit leader Ali Jackson of Ireland salvaged second, followed by Moreno Soeprapto of Indonesia.

Winslow trimmed Jackson's lead to 15 with eight rounds left.

"I was running okay. I had a great feel of the car and I was really pushing for it," Peña described his qualifying run. "I really felt that I can have a good place in qualifying until I ran wide in turn 2 and hit the wall rear first. But I'm okay, I just need to rest."

Winslow, who took the pole position with the best qualifying time of 1:25.102, led from start to finish.

The 11th round was set later in the day with Winslow hoping to complete a double. Four more rounds are set in the next two days.

Tyson Sy of Speedtech Asia opted to use his old cart. "After much deliberation, the team decided to dispense with our regular car and bring back our old car to action," said Sy who finished fourth, just eight-tenths of a second behind Soeprapto.

Hungry Lions try anew ver

"That was the intensity we were looking for," said PCU coach Joel Dualan Wednesday after the big win. "Tonight I saw fire in their eyes. We didn't come here to lose by a big margin or even win the game. We came here tonight ready to play our hearts out."

PCU also managed to squeeze out the brand of game expected from pro-bound Gabby Espinas, who fired 21 points to spearhead the rousing comeback. But more importantly, the Dolphins finally solved the puzzle nobody was able to do all season: Let Ekwe out

Alessandra riders shine in

ALESSANDRA RACING DRIVERS MATteo Guidicelli and Maico Angeles displayed their savvy in the Formula 125 category of the seventh leg of the Shell Super Karting Series held recently at the Kartzone in Mabolo, Cebu City.

Guidicelli, 2004 Karter of the Year, cunningly wove his way around traffic to score his first victory of the year while Angeles fought hard on the highly technical 650-meter long circuit to take fourth place. Jess Garcia and Mark Bumgarner, finished second and third, respectively.

Guidicelli and Angeles made up for the absence of team leader Alessandra Madrigal, who is taking her school exams in the United States.

"Credit should go to our mechanics who arrived in Cebu 10 days before the race to set up and fine-tune our karts," said Guidicelli. "We couldn't have done it without their hard work."

With his victory, Guidicelli wrested the overall lead in the series from two-time World Karting veteran Marlon Stockinger. Guidicelli now has 401 points, 11 ahead of Stockinger.

Rare sweep

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

HORSE OWNER HERMIE ESGUERra has done it again. This time, the popular sportsman from Plaridel, Bulacan, scored a rare sweep last Sunday when all his four entries won their respective races at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. Esguerra's winners were Macho Man, Condoleeza, Golden Sutter and Don Exequiel, a handsome chestnut colt which he named after his late father.

Expertly ridden by veteran jockey Jonathan Hernandez, Macho Man, a bay son of Account of Grace out of Tumataginting, won the second leg of the Philracom Juvenile Colts, beating coupled entry Pacman in a photo finish. Trained by multititled Jojie Panlilion, Macho Man pocketed the first prize of P720,000, clocking a respectable time of 1:35 for the 1,500-meter distance. Pacman, booted home by jockey Louis Balboa, earned the runner-up purse of P270,000 while first leg winner Superamerica, reined in by jockey Fernando Racquel, placed third, good for P150,000.

Condoleeza, piloted by ace jockey Jessie Guce, showed too much class in winning the Juvenile Fillies stakes race by some 10 lengths over her nearest rival, long shot Lancia Stratos. Trained by Tito Alvarez, Condoleeza also won P720,000, similarly timing 1:35 for 1,500 meters.

Banking on a strong finish, Golden Sutter, a 2-year-old chestnut colt trained by Bojie Fernandez, won the PCSO Special Maiden Race to bag P300,000 while Don Exequiel, a leg winner of this year's Triple Crown series, topped an ordinary race to complete Sunday's sweep, the first of its kind in recent racing memory.

"These victories were a result of the great efforts contributed by members of the team," said Esguerra. "I thank everyone—from the trainers, to the jockeys to the grooms—for a job well done."

The lopsided wins also boosted the bid of Macho Man, Pacman, Condoleeza and Golden Sutter—who are all 2-year-olds—to tear up the track in next year's Triple Crown series. The country's top money winner since 2001, Esguerra has built a gilt-edged reputation for turning out champion race horses by dint of hard work.

Known to the legions of racing fans as the owner of the now retired super horse Wind Blown, Esguerra rose to celebrity status because he is honest and fair in dealing with people. "I really work hard to excel," he said. "I study everything there is to know about a particular project be it in business or sports."

Esguerra launched his successful racing career in 1999 when he bought two horses—King Air and Tomahawk—from longtime racing aficionado, Antonio Floirendo, and another—Anahaw—from his friend, Eric Tagle. "It was just a new diversion at the start," he recalled, "but I got really hooked on racing in 2001 when I acquired Wind Blown, then already a champion horse, from Sandy Javier."

With a growing stable of race horses, Esguerra set up his own farm in Lipa, Batangas, where he established the modern Herma Farms. "Now I have found fulfillment." He said his next biggest goal is to produce champion horses in the mold of Wind Blown, who won an all-time record high of P18,978,695.50 in 49 starts, with 36 victories, 24 in stakes races.

* * *

RP CLEANS UP 2006 ASIAN TOUR. For the first time in many years, the Philippines won the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour via a sweep, with the great Efren "Bata" Reyes providing the coup de grace. Already the winner of the opening leg held in Ho Chi Minh City last May 7, Reyes sealed this year's four-leg series with an easy victory in Jakarta on Sunday night, Sept. 17. In-between these victories, compatriots Ramil Gallego won the second leg in Bangkok last June 4 while Rodolfo Luat took the third leg in the harbor city of Kaohsiung on Aug. 6.

The Filipino pool pros are on a roll. In less than one month, the 52-year-old Reyes won three international titles in grand fashion. Last Aug. 27, Reyes teamed up with Francisco "Django" Bustamante to win the inaugural World Cup of Pool in South Wales, Britain, beating the American tandem of Earl Strickland and Rodney Morris in the finals. Then on Sept. 10, Reyes topped the IPT World 8-Ball Open championship in Reno, Nevada, beating Rodney Morris again to pocket the first prize of $500,000, the biggest purse in the history of billiards. And, finally, on Sept. 17, Reyes topped the Jakarta leg of the Tour to complete a sweet sweep of this year's San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour.

Government Warning: Cigarette sm

ye of the Tiger watches s tyros

oods puts a Ryder Cup okies under his guidance

Augusta-based pro only acquired a passport at of last year and has never played a competitive f match play. But he is confident in his ability to ith the pressure of teeing off with the expecta- an entire country on his shoulders.

he Masters this year, standing on the first tee was he most nervous I've ever felt and I hit it right he middle, straight as an arrow," he said.

sure this week is going to be right up there with more nervous. We'll see."

aylor is the rawest of the new recruits, Wetterich, uld probably qualify as the most unlikely, admit- himself that he could scarcely have imagined 12 s ago that he would find himself having dinner oods, Lehman and co. this week.

his time last year I was worrying about keeping my our) card," he revealed.

ison has not managed to repeat his maiden US ctory, which came two years ago, but he has been stent performer this year and is the most gung- he rookies when it comes to envisaging the possi- f being faced with the ultimate Ryder Cup chal- sinking a putt of anything above four feet to win.

Korea Open

nwhile, Gerard Rosales fired a four-under 67 to outh African star Retief Goosen and hometown g Yong-eun, the joint leaders, by two shots in the n Open.

elo Que shot a 77 in the event in Cheonan, Korea. kie Miñoza, on the other hand, shot a 69 and by four strokes in the first round of the Acom In- onal golf tournament in Ibaraki Japan. *AFP*

Yankees clinch AL title

TORONTO—THE NEW YORK Yankees clinched their ninth consecutive American League East title on Wednesday despite a 3-2 loss to the Toronto Blue Jays.

Minnesota's 8-2 win over the Red Sox made it impossible for second-placed Boston to catch the Yankees at the top of the division, while the win also kept the Twins on track for a playoff berth.

The Yankees celebrated their 12 straight post-season appearance in customary champagne-spraying fashion and joined the crosstown rivals Mets as the first two teams to make the playoffs, keeping the possibility of a Subway Series on track.

"It never gets old," champagne drenched Yankees captain Derek Jeter told reporters.

"It's something that's difficult to do. If it was easy everyone would be doing it so you really appreciate it. Every time is different but this is very special because it's been a tough year." *Reuters*

cage goodwill abroad

with Zamar's performance, the e textile company have offered to ntract which will last up to Febru- r.

owever, Zamar is weighing his op-

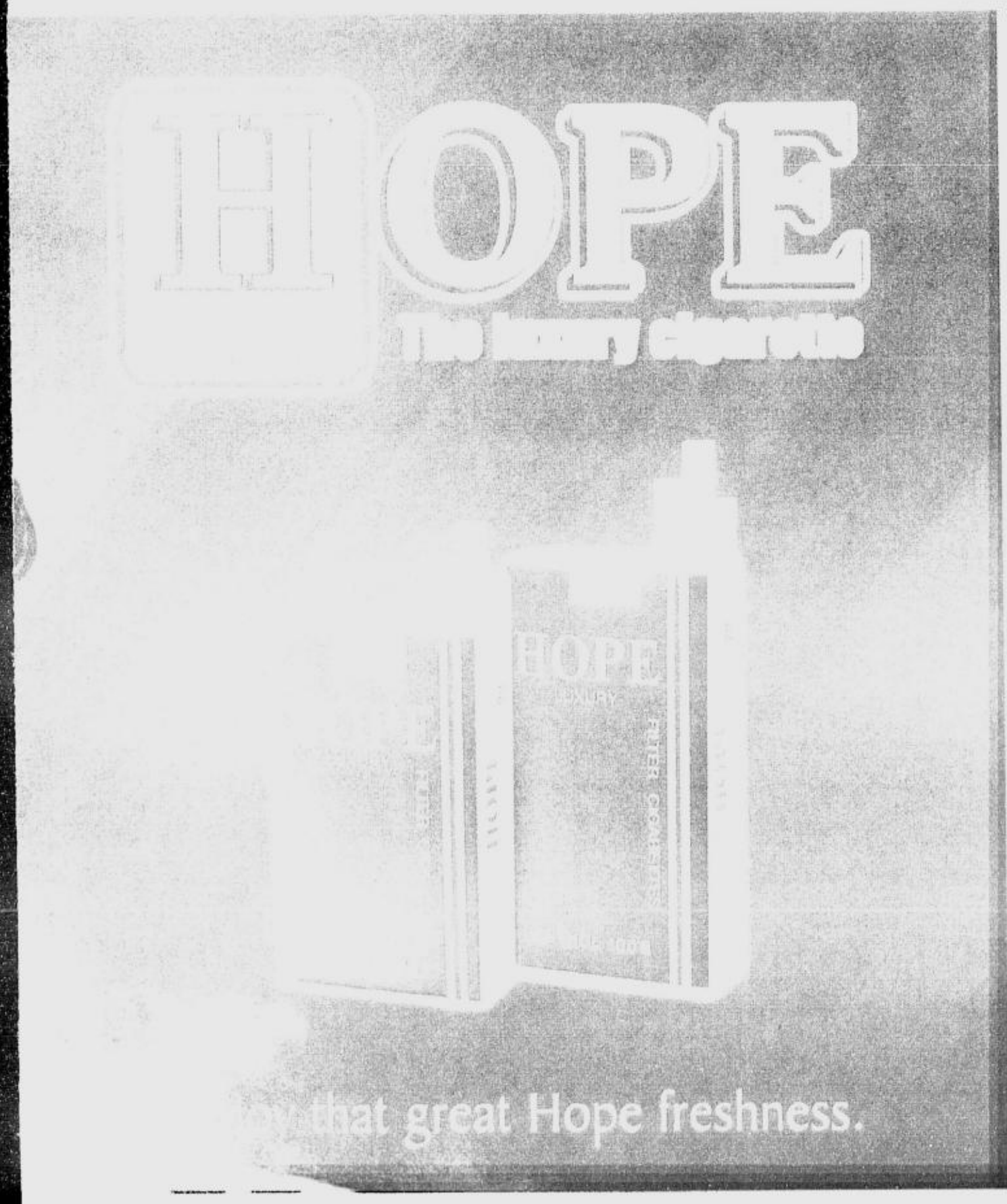
e's living a busy and pampered life two hours by car from the capital Zamar believes it should be the as- no players who should gain from program he developed with Dong Jean Henri Lhuillier of Cebuana l the BAP.

ho guided the Philippines to the sian Games championship in 2001, Saturdays in Indonesia teaching ildren the fundamentals and his Sundays tutoring 100-120 local coaches.

"My job is self-fulfilling and rewarding enough, but it's still different being at home," said Zamar, who also steered the University of the East Warriors to the 2002 Battle of Champions and Bantay Bata crowns.

Among Zamar's players then are reigning PBA MVP James Yap, Paul Artadi, Olan Omiping, Ronald Tubid and slam dunk king Niño Canaleta.

Zamar, who also served as assistant to the 1997 (under Vergeire), 1999 (under Louie Alas) and 2003 (under Aric del Rosario) SEAG champion teams, said he'd receive some feelers to coach local teams. "I'm considering them carefully," said Zamar. "At the end of the day, I'll still be coaching."



noking is dangerous to your health.

SPORTSWATCH

RP golfers falter in Taiwan Am

GENE BONDOC AND COMPANY SUBMITTED FAT SCORES AND TUMBLED IN the second round of the Acer International Amateur Golf Tournament at the Sunrise Golf Club in Taiwan yesterday. Bondoc, who started the day in joint 12th after an opening round of 73, skied to an 80 and shared 23rd place at 153, 13 strokes off new leader Kris Wasylowiche of Canada. That was the same output of Miko Alejandro, whose six over par 78 proved to be the best score among the six Filipinos seeing action in the tournament. Gene Bunyi, 16, who had a 79 in the first round, made a woeful 92 for a 171. The RP girls also floundered with Mia Piccio limping with an 83 after a 78 for a 161, while Lora Roberto turned in a second straight 80 for a 160. Crystal Superal made an 88 for a 169. Pei-Lin Yu of Taiwan carded a 74 to catch Korean So Yeon Ryu, shooting a 75, at the helm of women's play at 144.

Paderna fights unbeaten Thai tonight

CEBU-BASED JUN PADERNA OF THE WAKEE SALUD STABLE, THE PAN-ASIAN Boxing Association (Paba) super-featherweight champion, will battle undefeated Thai Chotipath Wongprated at the San Andres Gym tonight. Also seeing action is world-ranked Eriberto Gejon, who will battle Yoddoi Sishoei At yesterday's weigh-in, Paderna made the 130-lb limit, while the Thai came in two pounds over the limit. Hence, win or lose, Paderna will still be the Paba champ, according to Paba supervisor Alex Paglumotan. A percentage of the Thai's fight purse was also deducted for his failure to make weight on time.Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Marcial, Bernardino bag golds

FORMER CHAMPIONS RACHEL MARCIAL AND JURIE BERNARDINO BEAT their respective rivals to bag the gold medals in the seniors division of the Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati yesterday. Marcial, 24, pulled off a 5-3 victory over La Salle's Gerrielyn Aranzanso to rule the finweight class of the seniors' women's division and duplicate her feat in the 2001 edition. Bernardino, winner of the gold medal in the featherweight class as a junior in 2004, bested fellow UST jin Vincent Rey David, 6-2, for the gold medal, also in the finweight class of the seniors men's category.

PCCA derby unfolds today

THE THIRD LEG OF PASAY COCKPIT COCKERS ASSOCIATION (PCCA) 5-STAG derby series gets going at 3 p.m. today at Pasay City Cockpit with 90 fights scheduled. Thirty-six PCCA members and guest participants will compete in the round sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Up next at Pasay Cockpit is the PCCA Labanan 5-stag derby on Sept. 29. Stags with wingbands of Labanan Group, PCAP and NFGB Bakbakan will be accepted. Reservation of cockhouses is on. Call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Romblon Rock/Brazen Truth (2), Habagat (5), The Strategist (1), Express Strike (6)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—La Signorina (1), Fahrenheit (6), Powerhouse (2), Virgin Island (3)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—No Fear (1), Staunch Ally (4), Chance For Us (3), Don't Tell Ella (2)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Lovely Tara (9), Can And Will (8), Golden Issue (6), Mary Jane Bomb (12), Prophet (2)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Paminsanminsan (6), Overture (2), Inca (1), Thunder/Striking Thunder (4)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Semper Spirit (11), Stop Talking (6), Penny Wise (2), Pride And Joy (5), THor Patria (9)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Gold Is Gold (5), Eye Candy (2), Lucky Joe (4), Tigres In Action (7), Ocean Deep (1)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ingay Ingay (9), Rebound (2), Kiwi Rose (7), Dona Gelay (1), Strong Jays (4)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—It AMorosa (4), Secret Quest (3), Whistle Blower (1), Lady Cathy (5), Hello Africa (10), Awesome Power (9)

LITTLE OLYMPICS: The Luzon leg of the 2006 Milo Little Olympics blasts off today at the Narciso Ramos Sports and Civic Center in Pangasinan. These young bets will take center stage on Sept. 23, 24, and 30 and Oct. 1 as they battle it out for supremacy in athletics, badminton, chess football, gymnastics, lawn tennis, sepak takraw, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, and volleyball.

Castanares kayoed in Australia

FORMER WORLD BOXING FOUNDATION JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT champ Dindo Castanares suffered a second-round technical knockout loss at the hands of Daniel Dawson the other day in Perth, Australia. The end came at the 0:46 mark of the second round. Dawson raised his record to 24-0, 16 KOs. Castanares slipped to 16-5-2. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

SPORTS

Asian 14-Under Series Oct. 9-15

THE PHILIPPINE TENNIS ASSOCIATION IS INVITING BOYS AND GIRLS 14-years-old and below to join the Asian 14-Under Series tournament slated Oct. 9-15 at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City. Players may register with Loida Mallare at the Philta (5236415) and at the venue (6316234) or email asmi4@info.com.ph. Deadline of entry is on Sept. 25 at 5 p.m. Entry fee is $30.

RP karatekas top Tokyo tilt

FILIPINO KARATEKAS ALISA KARMINa Veguillas Cifra and Ana Ecaterina Cordero Tan won gold medals in the 5th World Shitoryu Karatedo Championships held at the Nippon Budokan Hall, Tokyo, Japan, recently.

Cifra, an 11-year-old 6th grader from De La Salle Zobel School, beat Japanese Hadukia, 7-3, in the finals to win the gold in the 11-12 year old girls kumite. She is the daughter of 1991 and 1993 SEA Games gold medalist, Ana Katrina Veguillas, and 1997 WKF World Cup silver medalist Francis Cifra.

UP freshman Tan topped the 17-18 year old girls kata after besting Mexico's Umi Choda in the final. She also won the bronze medal in the 17-18 year old girls kumite. The AAK Team Philippines was headed by Richard Anthony Lim and team coach Juan Carlos Veguillas.

Gabica vying in US pool

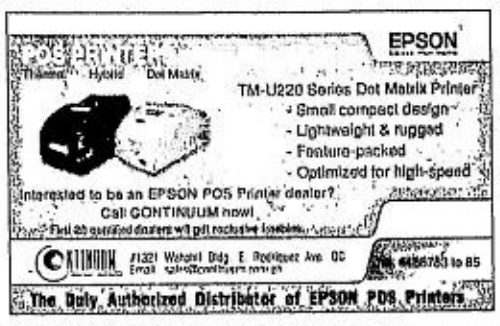
MANILA SOUTHeast Asian Games gold medalist Antonio Gabica will compete in the tough international pool competition starting next week in the United States.

The 34-year-old Cebuano will come from Indonesia, where he is competing in the 2006 Bali International Open. Gabica will also see action in the 2006 US Open set Sept.25 - Oct.1 in Chessapeake, Virginia.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante is the defending champion in the Bali event while Alex Pagulayan is the reigning US Open 9-ball tournament titlist.

A veteran of the Japan and Germany pool circuit, Gabica ruled the 2004 Fil-9 Ball Open and has played in the World Pool Championships in Cardiff, Wales.

Gabica, finally granted a US visa last week after three denials, is backed by businessman Perry Mariano of Bugsy's Promotion. "He (Gabica) is one of my best 8-ball and 9-ball players, " said Mariano. *Marlon Bernardino.*



BUSINESS

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Oil firms roll back fuel prices

Gas, diesel, kerosene cheaper by 50¢/liter

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH FUEL PRICES CONTINUING TO SOFTEN around the world, the country's oil companies yesterday reduced their gasoline, diesel and kerosene rates by 50 centavos a liter for the fifth straight week.

New player Eastern Petroleum Corp. was the first to roll back its prices yesterday at noon, followed by independent oil firm Seaoil Petroleum Corp. at 2 p.m.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron Philippines Inc. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. reduced the prices of the same products yesterday at 6 p.m.

Total (Philippines) Corp. and Flying V would follow suit at 12:01 a.m. today.

According to the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude last month fell to a September average of $61.48 a barrel from $68.93 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products dropped to an average of $66.71 a barrel in the Sept. 1-20 period from last month's average of $81.61 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel plunged to an average of $79.36 a barrel in the first 20 days of the month from an average of $87.37 a barrel posted in August.

Since the start of the year, oil firms have raised gasoline prices 18

OIL FIRMS/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

Merry Christmas, Zobels /B2

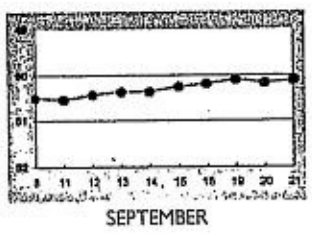
IMF draws rosy picture for RP /B2

Fund buys into gaming company /B4

Invest more in human resources, gov't told /B8

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.13 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 21, 2006

SEPTEMBER

GOLD: $574.30-574.80

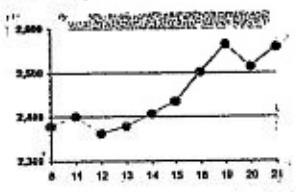
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 20, 2006

¥117.17 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 21, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 1.77% higher



SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 1.77 percent higher, recouping most of Wednesday's losses when investors were jolted by news of Thailand's military coup, dealers said.

Fresh support for blue-chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) and overnight gains on Wall Street drove the recovery amid hopes of higher returns for shareholders in coming

(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES/ B2

Reluctant giant tiptoes through electronic ticketing

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Last of two parts)

UNSURPRISINGLY, AIRLINE INDUSTRY leader Philippine Airlines is approaching the online booking phenomenon more cautiously, especially since it continues to rely heavily on an extensive network of branches, sales agents, and travel agents for the bulk of its sales.

Despite lagging behind more aggressive competitors in the online arena, PAL's physical sales network is nothing to laugh at, having been built and nurtured over the last half century when the airline was a state-protected monopoly.

TRENDS

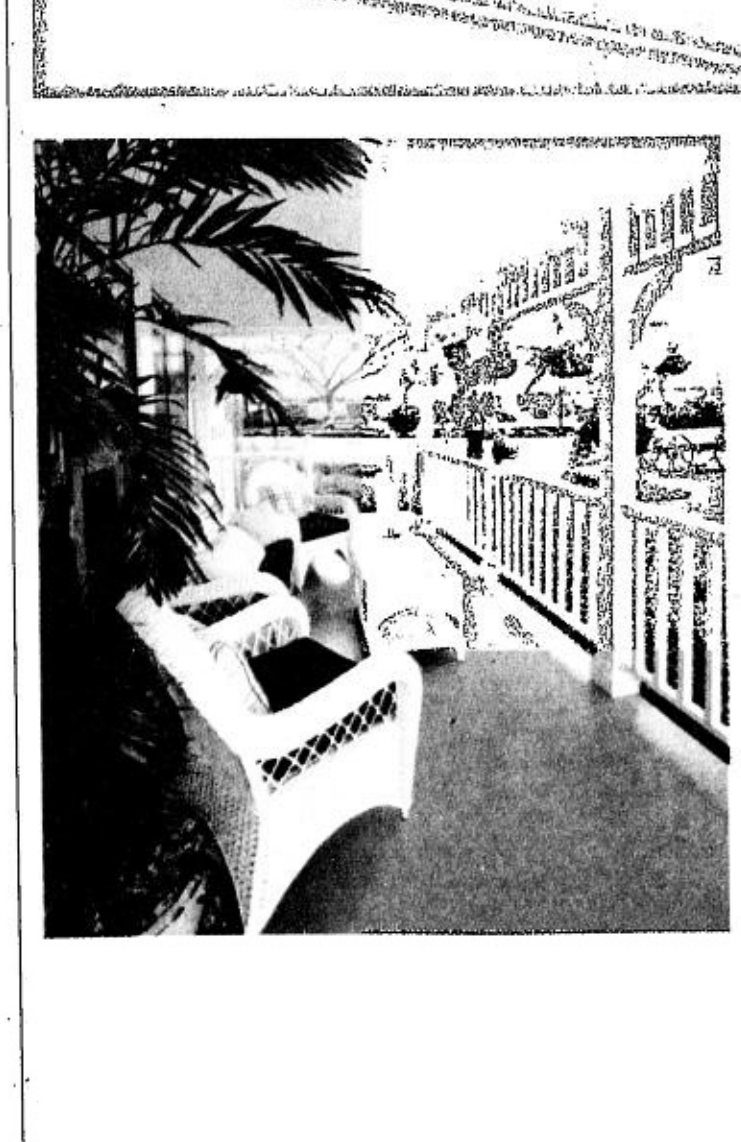
Thus, PAL is in no hurry to cut out its reliable middlemen.

"PAL values its long-standing business relationship with its industry partners, the travel agents," corporate e-business senior assistant vice president Roberto B. Diaz de Rivera said in an e-mail reply to the INQUIRER's questions.

In addition, he pointed out that there were services which only per-

RELUCTANT/ B5

Brittany



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Merry Christmas, Zobels

THE SEASON OF JOY AND GIFT-GIVING is still three months away, but already the Zobels have made sure their holiday socks are well-filled.

The family holding company, Mermac Inc., scooped up over P10.56 billion in unloading about 6.9 percent out of the nearly 58.1 percent stake in the family-controlled Ayala Corp.

Named after the late Zobel matriarch Mercedes McMicking, Mermac is now chaired by her nephew, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, with the latter's two sons, Jaime Augusto and Fernando, serving as co-vice chairs.

The multibillion-peso sale happened only less than a year after McMicking, 98, passed away last Dec. 3.

According to the grapevine, McMicking, who died childless, distributed the bulk of her private Mermac shareholdings equally among her nine grandnephews and grandnieces, who are now supposed to be Mermac's largest shareholders.

At yesterday's close, the remaining Mermac stake in Ayala Corp. was worth over P80 billion. And that's not counting the Spanish-American-Filipino family's

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

unlisted local and overseas investments.

With the generous bequest, these nine cousins—seven from Don Jaime and two from his late brother Enrique—have been assured a life of leisure, if they so choose, even way beyond a cat's proverbial nine lives.

Despite the magnitude of the transaction, Ayala Corp. was typically parsimonious with facts in its announcement the other day as to why the Zobels had to unload the block, except to say that the disposal would increase the liquidity of the publicly listed conglomerate.

Incidentally, cousins Inigo and Jaime Augusto, the designated heads of the two local Zobel houses, were both out of the country when the sale was executed by the Deutsche Bank Group in the local stock market.

A Filipino corporation, Mermac is headquartered on the 35th, the penthouse, floor of Ayala Tower One, along with the other private corporations of the Spanish cousins, the MacCrohon Padillas.

Other than the Zobels, the only other parties that would have insider's knowledge of the clan's corporate secrets would be Mermac corporate secretary Renato Marzan, treasurer Estrella Mariano, and an accountant named Agnes Sayao.

Country affairs

THE COUNTRY Club, the country's most exclusive golf club with only about 220 members, is proposing to increase the current P14,000 monthly dues to P20,000.

The higher dues would translate to P240,000 a year, not counting the share which costs P2 million and the transfer and membership fees of P800,000—a small fortune just to whack a ball and chase it hole after hole under the heat of the tropical sun.

For the benefit of the peasants and the promdi readers, the Country Club is located in Canlubang, Laguna, whose 100-hectare sprawl had been carved out of the former Yulo sugar estate.

That is where First Gentleman Mike Arroyo plays golf, where his cousin, Benito "Bomboy" Araneta not only shields him from prying eyes, but also gets his undivided attention when they talk about business and other affairs.

Among its more famous non-member guests are a mysterious lady that hides under the name of Karen Santos, said to be a member of the Riviera in Cavite, who has not returned to the Canlubang club after publisher Jake Macasaet started writing about her.

Heard through the grapevine

THE INTERNATIONAL Finance Corp. has agreed in principle to extend a $20-million loan to fund the Madagascar port project of the International Container Terminal Services Inc.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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120i	Sparkling Graphite	2005	8,866	P1,780,000
120i Executive	Titanium Silver	2005	11,646	P1,850,000
316i (E36)	Alpine White	1998	52,000	P530,000
316i (E46)	Titanium Silver	2002	22,000	P1,100,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Orient Blue	2003	48,500	P1,380,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Titanium Silver	2003	10,000	P1,580,000
318i Executive (E46)	Titanium Silver	2002	24,500	P1,350,000
318i Executive (E90)	Titanium Silver	2006	3,800	P2,380,000
520i Limousine	Oxford Green	2004	12,177	P1,980,000
523i	Dunkel Blue	1997	82,145	P1,000,000
523i Executive	Silver Grey	2006	3,307	P2,360,000
530i Executive	Titanium Silver	2006	1,683	P2,980,000
Z4 2.5i Roadster	Sterling Grey	2004	2,900	P1,795,000
X3 2.5i Executive	Black Saphire	2006	12,970	P1,990,000
X3 2.5i SAV	Black Saphire	2004	27,443	P1,650,000
X3 2.5i SAV	Mystic Blue	2005	22,290	P1,770,000
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IMF draws rosy picture for RP

Asia-Pacific nations seen to continue to post strong gains

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund (IMF) has given Asian nations, including the Philippines, a positive outlook, saying the region is likely to continue to post strong economic growth, even through external disturbances.

IMF Division Chief Timothy Callen said that while the political turbulence in Thailand may affect investor sentiment on the region as a whole, it is not expected to upset macroeconomic indicators of other more stable Asian economies.

With respect to the Philippines, the IMF said that the government's effort to put its public fiscal sector in order has been fruitful in terms of improving investor sentiment toward the country. The IMF said that when the government stepped up measures to address fiscal woes, it was taking a step in the right direction.

"Looking ahead, growth prospects (for Asian countries) are bright, spurred by firming domestic demand," the IMF said in its regional economic outlook. "With the interest cycle in Asia likely nearing its peak and the prospect of stability in oil prices, there is an expectation that domestic demand—in particular, investment in the Asean countries—will pick up steam."

The IMF has recently adjusted its GDP growth forecast for the whole of Asia to 7.3 percent this year, reflecting a 0.5 percentage point improvement from its previous forecast. The growth is relatively stronger than other regions.

The IMF attributed its growth forecast for Asia to the ability of member economies to contain inflation despite oil price hikes. The slowdown in inflation is attributed to monetary action and foreign exchange appreciation.

Inflation for Asia is seen to stand below 3 percent this year and next year. In the case of the Philippines, average inflation for the first eight months of the year hit only 6.9 percent, prompting economic authorities to project that full-year inflation would settle below the official forecast of between 7.3 and 7.9 percent.

The IMF this year likewise sees investment flows in Asia growing, and exports getting stronger, given the huge demand especially for electronics products.

But the institution added that, in the area of attracting investments, the Philippines is being left behind by its neighbors. The IMF noted that the investment-to-GDP ratio of 15 percent in the Philippines was comparatively smaller than India's 31 percent and China's 45 percent.

Oil firms roll back fuel prices

From page B1

times by a total of P9 a liter. Diesel prices have risen 15 times by a total of P7.50 a liter, while kerosene prices have increased 19 times by a total of P9.50 a liter.

But over the past five weeks oil firms have been cutting prices by an average of 50 centavos to P1 a liter, reflecting the drop in prices of world crude and finished products.

Following the rollback, premium unleaded gasoline prices now range between P39.24 and P41.66 a liter, diesel to between P33.84 and P35.96 a liter, and kerosene to between P37.19 and P42 a liter.

All prices are inclusive of the 12-percent value-added tax.

Shares close 1.77% higher

From page B1

months, they said.

The composite index added 44.45 points to a high of 2,557.21, after touching a low of 2,519.93.

The broader all-share index rose 14.84 points to 1,551.97.

Gainers beat losers 47 to 41, with 50 stocks unchanged. Turnover was 2.26 billion shares worth P3.43 billion ($68.46 million).

PLDT, the most actively traded stock, jumped P85 to P2,285 and accounted for nearly 30 percent of total turnover.

Ayala Corp. was up P5 to P460 and SM Investments rose P3 to P237.

San Miguel A-shares were steady at P65, while its B-shares rose 50 centavos to P74.50. *AFP*

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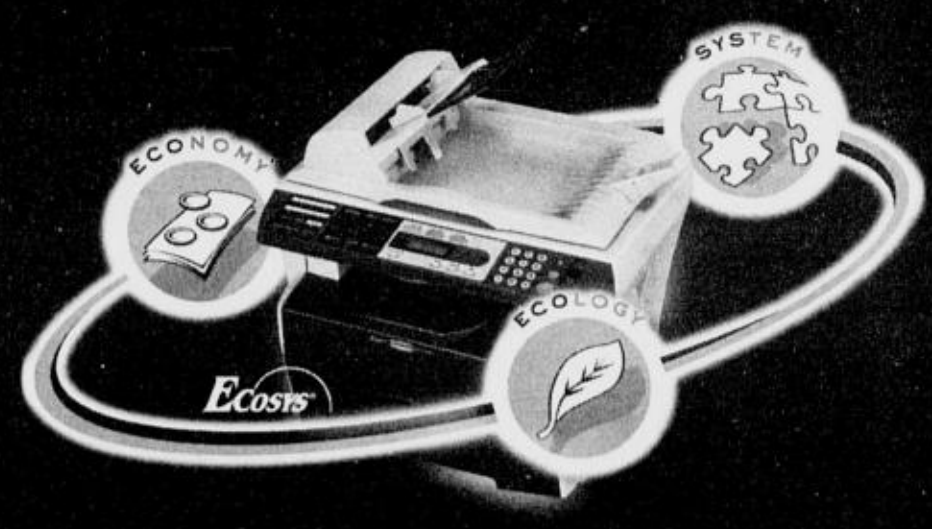

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Fund buys into gaming company

Populus gets 5.1% or 39.7M shares of Leisure and Resorts World

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

POPULUS FUND OF FINLAND has bought 5.1 percent of bingo games owner Leisure and Resorts World Corp.

LRWC president Alfredo B. Benitez said the acquisition reflected the fund's confidence in the gaming company's prospects.

"It's because of good fundamentals," Benitez said in a reply sent to the INQUIRER via text message when asked what lured the mutual fund to LRWC.

In an ownership report filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, Populus said it bought 39.7 million shares of LRWC as of Sept. 13.

The price of the acquisition was not disclosed, however.

LRWC closed at P2 a share yesterday.

Populus Fund is a Finnish mutual fund managed by PYN Fund Management.

Populus Fund has no other interests in LRWC other than those of a portfolio investor, he said.

LRWC is optimistic its net income will increase by as much as 200 percent this year from the P66.7 million it reported in 2005 due to new bingo formats, Benitez said.

In August 2005, LRWC subsidiary and Bingo Bonanza operator AB Leisure Exponent Inc. introduced "Rapid Bingo," a game where clients choose their numbers.

AB Leisure likewise launched "Pull Tabs," a scratch and match game.

In a financial report filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), LWRC said that it would operate 1,200 e-bingo (electronic bingo) machines in 35 bingo parlors and 61 "Rapid Bingo" terminals in 31 bingo parlors this year.

AB Leisure Exponent Inc., meanwhile, plans to open two more bingo halls in the third quarter this year.

These new parlors will be in SM Bicutan and SM Mall of Asia.

LRWC reported its net income rose 66.8 percent to P42 million in the first half of this year from P25.2 million in the same period last year due to bingo sales and earnings from its 35-percent equity in First Cagayan Leisure and Resort Corp.

First Cagayan is the master licensor for Internet gaming operations within the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Free Port.

Total bingo sales of LRWC grew to P1.52 billion in the first half from P1.33 billion in the same period last year.

AB Leisure, meanwhile, reported that its consolidated income in the first six months fell 14 percent to P31.4 million from P33.3 million in the same period last year due to higher operating expenses.

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
HIPRA PHILIPPINES, INC. 1208 JJACCIS Bldg., Acacia St., Madrigal Business Park, Filinvest Corp., Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jose Manuel Izquierdo Romero	General Manager
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS PNR Management Center, T. Bugallon St. Sangandaan, Caloocan City	Noh Sung Kim	Team Leader
PACIFIC MEDITERRENIAN INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER AGENCY, INC. 1574-C, Gedisco Ctr., 1564 A. Mabini St. Brgy. 669, Zone 72, Ermita, Manila	Ziad Tajouri	Overseas Marketing Director
E-TELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS INC. 20/F, Cyberone Bldg., Eastwood Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Jalile Hbili	Multi-Lingual Customer Service Associate
NAM'S GOLF CORPORATION 3/F, JGC Annex Bldg., 1606 Trade St. Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jin Hwan Yoo	Operations Manager
NAM'S GOLF CORPORATION 3/F, JGC Annex Bldg., 1606 Trade St. Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Hyunwook Nam	Executive Vice-President
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If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

f. LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Sept. 22, 2006)

PSALM ready to rebid retired power plants

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER GOING THROUGH SEVERAL failed auctions last year, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) is now preparing to rebid the National Power Corp.'s retired power plants.

These assets, to be assessed based on their scrap value, include the 225-megawatt (MW) Bataan thermal power plant in Limay, the 200-MW Manila thermal power plant in Ermita, the 22.3-MW General Santos diesel power plant in South Cotabato, the 54-MW Cebu II diesel power plant in Toledo City, and the 108-MW Aplaya diesel power plant in Misamis Oriental.

PSALM did not say how much it expected to raise from the sale.

PSALM conducted two auctions for the Bataan thermal plant in April and September last year, both of which were declared failures.

The first auction for both the Cebu II and Manila plants, which was held in the first quarter of last year, was likewise declared a failure.

But with several groups already expressing interest to bid for the decommissioned plants, PSALM vice president for asset management and electricity trading Froilan Tampinco said PSALM would be conducting a bidders' forum on Sept. 29.

The forum is designed to get feedback and recommendations from prospective bidders regarding the terms and conditions of the auctions.

"Since PSALM is currently preparing for the privatization of its decommissioned assets, we deem that an avenue where interested parties can sit together and discuss their views with us will be very helpful in formulating the most effective disposal strategy for the assets," Tampinco said in a statement.

Cebu Pacific resumes Clark-Cebu flights

By Jun Malig
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FIELD, PAMPANGA—CEBU Pacific, the second largest domestic airline, will resume next month its daily flights to and from Cebu City at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here.

A promotional Cebu-Clark fare of P99 is being offered if tickets are bought from Sept. 19 to 26.

Victor Jose Luciano, president of Clark International Airport Corp., said the airline will use its newly acquired Airbus A319, which can accommodate up to 142 passengers.

He said the management of Cebu Pacific decided to renew flights here to strengthen the economic ties between the growth centers of Central Luzon and the Visayas.

Cebu Pacific aircraft will take off at 10:20 a.m. from Cebu and arrive here at 11:40 a.m. It will leave the DMIA at 12:10 p.m. and arrive in Cebu at 1:30 p.m.

Luciano said the DMIA has 43 international and 14 domestic passenger flights a week, aside from 60 international and domestic cargo fights.

He said the CIAC is expanding the passenger capacity of the airport and is improving its security and other facilities.

The passenger terminal here is being used by Asiana Airlines, which has daily flights to Seoul, South Korea; Tiger Airways, with thrice a day flights to Singapore, Macau and Thailand; Air Asia with daily flights to Malaysia and Thailand and China Rich Airlines with three times a week flights to China.

Sony tightens hold on market

SONY PHILIPPINES IS LOOKING AT EXpanding its dominant share of the local television market with the introduction of high-definition TV models under the Bravia line.

The local unit of Sony Corp. of Japan yesterday gave the media a preview of the new Bravia line-up—18 different models with prices ranging from P99,000 to more than P600,000—to be launched for the Christmas season.

Some of the Bravia models will be available in October in the local market while the rest will be introduced in November.

The local subsidiary of Sony carries a more varied Bravia line-up with more models even compared to Japan, said Hiroaki Kobayashi, president and managing director of Sony Philippines.

"Around the world, Sony is putting premium effort into building up the Bravia as the future of home entertainment, with its promise of a high-definition (HD) viewing experience," Kobayashi said.

The Bravia was introduced in the Philippines late last year with just five models.

It then referred to a premium-quality, high-definition LCD TV line-up.

This year, Sony is expanding the Bravia line-up and even go beyond the LCD TV with its H-LCD (High Temperature Polysilicon 3-LCD) and SXRD(Silicon X-tal Reflective Display) projection televisions.

Also this November, Sony Philippines will be introducing the biggest screen size of Sony display devices, the 70-inch SXRD projection television.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 21, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	16,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	454,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	58.5	57.5	57.5	3,472,400
China Banking Corp.	695	695	695	695	300
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.44	0.42	0.43	14,550,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	75.5	75.5	73.5	74	794,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41.5	41.5	40.5	41	1,858,700
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	18,300
Phil. Savings Bank	41	43	41	43	32,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.25	18,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	44.5	44.5	44	44	1,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	3.3	3.4	3.15	3.2	3,100,000
First Abacus Financial	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	80,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30	30.5	30	30.5	10,100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1590	1600	1590	1600	4,680
Ivantage Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	2,709,000
INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	50	50	49.5	49.5	693,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49	49	48.5	49	1,106,700
Manila Electric Co. A	19	19	19	19	179,200
Manila Electric Co. B	30	30	29	30	375,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.2	9.2	8.8	9	9,087,000
Petron Corp.	3.95	4.1	3.95	4.1	4,501,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	30,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.75	23	22.75	22.75	55,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	36.5	35	36	825,100
Pancake House Inc.	4.7	5	4.7	5	25,000
RFM Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.85	300,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	606,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	47,700
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74.5	74	74.5	101,900
Universal Robina Corp	18.25	18.25	18	18.25	6,609,300
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	720,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.76	1,205,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	3,505,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	6	6	6	6	10,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4	4.7	4	4.15	1,306,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.49	0.49	18,880,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.16	0.165	25,020,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	4,000,000
Ayala Corp.	460	467.5	457.5	460	1,012,590
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.2	26,340,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.029	15,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	246,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	2,600,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	39,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.93	1,400,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.35	310,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	61,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	6,291,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	257,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	518,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.2	6.3	1,138,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.38	1.42	1.34	1.34	3,698,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.013	0.011	0.011	47,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	100,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	560,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.13	1,940,000
SM Investments Corp.	235	237	234	237	1,435,120
South China Resources Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.91	0.91	200,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.14	1.2	1.14	1.16	36,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.115	0.125	0.115	0.12	12,900,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	15	15.25	14.75	15.25	6,777,500
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.04	32,571,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.81	0.86	0.81	0.85	380,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	4,200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	209,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	169,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	3,430,000
E/B Realty Developers Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	390,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.51	12,130,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	310,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.06	0.0625	0.06	0.0625	300,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.46	1.52	1.46	1.52	53,757,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	72,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	15,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,840,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.51	0.51	540,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.9	1.94	1.9	1.92	27,292,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.55	3.55	610,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.26	0.3	340,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.16	0.185	0.16	0.185	210,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	2,499,500
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	4,090,000
SM Development Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.4	2,041,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	560,000
MEDIA					
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1	1	1	1	70,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.26	1.3	1.26	1.3	1,251,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1060	1085	1060	1085	18,980
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.65	4.7	4.6	4.65	5,249,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2210	2290	2210	2285	438,170
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	1,300,000
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	17,000,000
Ionics Inc.	2.02	2.02	1.96	1.96	140,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	3,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	2,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	105,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.028	0.029	125,400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.65	670,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	16.25	16.5	16	16.25	279,700
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	20,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	759,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	1,100,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	5,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	1,070,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.04	2.12	1.96	1.98	2,411,000
Paxys Inc.	10.25	10.25	10	10	195,500
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6	6.6	5.9	6.5	17,718,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6	6.7	5.9	6.6	12,120,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	227,100,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	925,000
Benguet Corp. A	10	10	10	10	18,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	21,710,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	11,090,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.022	520,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.026	340,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	402,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.7	3.85	3.7	3.75	7,935,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	20.5	20.5	20	20.25	324,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	200,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,350,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	16,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	468,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	389,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	53,000
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	104	104	104	55,900
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	16.75	16.75	152,700

CURRENCIES

September 21, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.788084	1.000000	50.2420
Japan	Yen	0.006709	0.008513	0.4277
United Kingdom	Pound	1.488297	1.888500	94.8820
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101227	0.128447	6.4534
Switzerland	Franc	0.629964	0.799361	40.1615
Canada	Dollar	0.698594	0.886446	44.5368
Singapore	Dollar	0.496775	0.630358	31.6704
Australia	Dollar	0.594287	0.754091	37.8870
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.090520	2.652661	133.2750
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210139	0.266645	13.3968
Brunei	Dollar	0.495215	0.628378	31.5710
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000109	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020860	0.026469	1.3299
Uae	Dirham	0.214573	0.272272	13.6795
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.268900	63.7521
Argentina	Peso	0.254385	0.322789	16.2176
Brazil	Real	0.363591	0.461361	23.1797
Denmark	Kroner	0.134046	0.170091	8.5457
India	Rupee	0.017169	0.021786	1.0946
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214270	0.271887	13.6601
Mexico	New Peso	0.071965	0.091316	4.5879
New Zealand	Dollar	0.520841	0.660895	33.2047
Norway	Kroner	0.120696	0.153151	7.6946
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013026	0.016529	0.8305
South Africa	Rand	0.106454	0.135080	6.7867
Korea	Won	0.000829	0.001052	0.0529
Sweden	Kroner	0.108346	0.137480	6.9073
Syria	Pound	0.015182	0.019264	0.9679
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023943	0.030381	1.5264
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000367	0.000466	0.0234

Fiscal governance in fisheries

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

WHEN I WAS IN A DOCTORATE CLASS UNDER the late management guru Peter Drucker, he said something I will never forget: "While it's important to do things right, it is more important to do the right things."

At around the same time, Liza Minelli was frequently heard on the airwaves with the now famous line from the Broadway hit "Cabaret": Money makes the world go round."

In fisheries, as in many other areas, the effectiveness of governance is largely determined by the money allocated to it. And how useful the money "goes around" is dependent on the decision to spend on the right things, and then spending it right.

This was the subject of the European-funded Reforming Fiscal Governance in Fisheries conference sponsored by Tambuyog and Alyansa Agrikultura last Sept. 15.

Before 2005, we never had a Comprehensive National Fisheries Development Plan. Last Nov. 7-8, the first draft of such a plan was presented in a public consultation. It followed the pattern that characterized the distribution of funds across the commercial, municipal and aquaculture sectors in the prior years.

Fisheries budget

In the past few years, the smallest share of the fisheries budget has gone to municipal fisheries, which employs the largest percentage of people (6 percent goes to 77 percent). Aquaculture, which has a smaller employment share of 17 percent, gets 73 percent. It is doubly disturbing that municipal fisheries have the greatest incidence of poverty, not only in the fisheries sector, but also among all the sectors in the country. The aquaculture sector is economically far better off.

It is suggested that if a budget redistribution is to be done, fewer government subsidized aquaculture initiatives can be undertaken using a pilot approach. Once the private sector sees these initiatives succeed, they can replicate these initiatives with their own money.

Municipal fishers, because of their economically disadvantaged status, have less access not only to funds but also to information. We should "do the right thing" in allocating to them a larger share of the funds. This was the revised consensus proposal presented by Sonny Batungbacal at last week's conference, with specific programs supporting the budget distribution. The new allocation is 53 percent for municipal fisheries, 34 percent for commercial and 15 percent for aquaculture (excluding post-harvest and institutional development).

It is hoped that the government decides on a budget distribution closer to this proposal, compared to the pattern taken these past years.

Doing things right

Spending the money in the right way can be better achieved with transparency. A. Folscher, W. Krafchik and I. Shapiro stated in their Budget Information Service and International Budget Project: "The clarity of roles and responsibilities in the management of public finances is essential because it means that the electorate can hold specific parts of government accountable when things go wrong, or praise the correct parties when things go well. In this way, transparency provides an incentive for individuals in government to govern better" (www.internationalbudget.org).

However, in a 2006 issue of the Palihan Journal on Fisheries Administration published by NGOs for Fisheries Reform, done in partnership with the Foundation for Philippine Environment (FPE), it states that: "The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is hard put at providing needed information to the public." One major reason given is "the reluctance to give out information."

This has changed. At last week's conference, BFAR Director Malcom Sarmiento said he would now involve the fisheries sector in both budget formulation and implementation. He specifically identified Tambuyog Development Center as a key participant in this process, which includes monthly budget utilization monitoring.

The extent of this proposed participation does not exist in any other Department of Agriculture organizational unit, in spite of the Alyansa recommendation submitted since last February 2004. It is hoped that these other units soon follow Sarmiento's and BFAR's transparency initiative. Fiscal governance is expected to greatly improve, for we will then not only do things right, but also do the right things.

(The author is Agriwatch chair. Send inquiries to agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8522112.)

Reluctant . . .

From page B1

son-to-person interaction can satisfy, despite the advanced technology touted by PAL's rivals.

"There are certain documentation requirements when one travels abroad; and we recognize the fact that travel agents, more than airlines, are best able to provide various services passengers (especially those coming from the Philippines) require (e.g., securing visa) when they travel to other countries," he said.

PAL does provide online booking services—now in its sixth year. But it rarely trumpets this facility to avoid taking business away from its sales partners.

Surviving, thriving

"We feel that the passengers themselves will define how the mix will be; and the airline must adjust to the changing demands of its clients," Diaz de Rivera said when asked about the company's view on online versus physical booking.

"Aside from that, both passengers and airline have to rely on the availability of more robust and reliable telecom infrastructure, and more efficient and secured Internet payment systems."

According to Diaz de Rivera, this is a very real problem in the Philippines, where Internet penetration, by one estimate, remains at one percent of the population.

As a consequence, the PAL official pointed out that only one percent of the airline's flyers currently book their flights online. Eventually, he hoped that this level would rise to 10 percent of total sales—an implicit recognition of the inroads made by its competitors and the greater role online booking will play in an increasingly wired world.

Optimistic

For Seair director and co-founder Nikos Gitsis, this trend means not only survival for the small airline that he and his partner own, amid the margin squeeze caused by high operating costs and rising competition in the industry.

He is so optimistic of the take-up in online sales that the airline is scheduled to take delivery of two more Dornier 328 turboprop aircraft from Germany either late this year or early next year to boost its present 30,000-passenger-a-month capacity.

"We hope to see online [ticket] bookings make up 35 to 45 percent of our total sales in the next 12 to 18 months," Gitsis said.

If this is achieved, Seair will have managed to save on a significant cost by virtually cutting out middlemen—while reaching more of its target clients through the Internet.

It could very well be its ticket to a thriving business that can stand up to industry giants Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Sep. 19, 2006 / Last Week Sep. 12, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.50467 / 1.49531
Managed Fund - Peso	1.67461 / 1.64051
Growth Fund - Peso	1.36789 / 1.29697
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2925 / 1.2854

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

INSULAR LIFE — Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure

	UNIT PRICES (In Php)	
	Sept. 18, 2006	Sept. 11, 2006
Fixed Income Fund	1.191686	1.186607
Balanced Fund	1.204836	1.192352
Equity Fund	1.239456	1.209690

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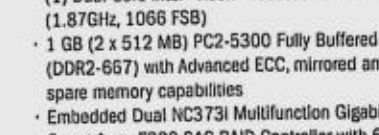

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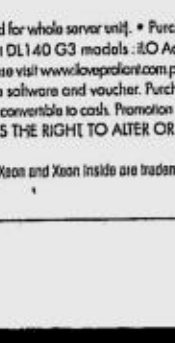

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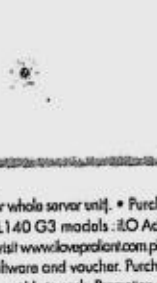

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PROMOTION MECHANICS: • Trade in an old processor (whatever brand; no need for whole server unit). • Purchase a ProLiant Trade-In Trade-Up (TITU) bundle at the special trade up price specified below. • Upon trade in and claim, customer may be able to get **Software:** HP ProLiant ML150 G3, HP ProLiant ML370 G5 & HP ProLiant DL140 G3 models : iLO Advanced Pack worth ₱20 000; HP ProLiant DL140 G3, HP ProLiant DL360 G5 & HP ProLiant DL380 G5 models : ProLiant Essentials SMP-Physical to ProLiant Edition worth ₱11,850 **Voucher:** ProLiant Options Discount Voucher (please visit www.iloveproliant.com.ph for more details) **Gadget:** ML models : iPOD Nano DL models : cellphone • Countdown begins. Purchase a TITU bundle from Aug. 15 to Sept. 15, 2006 and get all three items Purchase a TITU bundle from Sept. 16 to Oct. 15, 2006 and get the software and voucher. Purchase a TITU bundle from Oct. 15 to Oct. 31, 2006 and get the voucher. • Promotion duration is from August 15 to October 31, 2006 **Terms and Conditions:** *Fossil watch shown may vary from actual prize. Prize(s) is/are not convertible to cash. Promotion offer is not valid with any other type of discounting and/or promotional offer. Further decrease in bundle /options pricing will disqualify bundle/option in promotion. Promotion bundles should come from HP local distributor(s). HP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR MODIFY THESE TERMS & CONDITIONS AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE

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Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Tarlac City

INVITATION TO BID

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties:

Item No.	DESCRIPTION	PROPERTY LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
1	231 sq. m. TCTC No. 369554 Dilapidated Bungalow	L10 B31 Fairlane Subd., San Vicente, Tarlac City	353,400.00
2	166 sq. m. TCT No. 366898 1BR Bungalow	L7-C-2 Villa Analy Subd., Ramos St. Tarlac City	329,000.00
3	240 sq. m. TCT No. 366408 3BR Bungalow	L859-C-2-E-1-A-7 #31 Villa Analy Subd., Tarlac City	472,700.00
4	185 sq. m. TCT No. 369561 4BR 2Storey Residence	L854 D-4-D Villa Analy Subd., Tarlac City	550,000.00
5	213 sq. m. TCT No. 366404 2BR Bungalow	L859-C-2-E-2-U Villa Analy Subd., Tarlac City	579,100.00
6	180 sq. m. TCT No. 366411 2BR Bungalow	L26 B6 San Sebastian Heights, Carangian, Tarlac City	421,000.00
7	150 sq. m. TCT No. 366409 1BR Bungalow	L21 B14 Kapatiran St., Northern Hills Subd., Tarlac City	316,500.00
8	150 sq. m. TCT No. 359540 2BR Bungalow	L14 B14 Kapatiran St., Northern Hills Subd., San Rafael, Tarlac City	441,500.00
9	236 sq. m. TCT No. 366407 2BR Bungalow	L26 B15 Our Lady of Ransom Subd., Matatalaib, Tarlac City	451,400.00
10	240 sq. m. TCT No. 382520 2BR Duplex	L11 B15 #73 Our Lady of Ransom Subd., Matatalaib, Tarlac City	314,800.00
11	240 sq. m. TCT No. 360237 2BR Duplex	L21 B15 Our Lady of Ransom Subd., Matatalaib, Tarlac City	447,500.00
12	240 sq. m. TCT No. 383591 2BR Bungalow	L18 B15 Our Lady of Ransom Subd., Matatalaib, Tarlac City	377,000.00
13	240 sq. m. TCT No. 369563 2BR Bungalow	L15 B4 Sto. Nino Subd., Matatalaib, Tarlac City	317,500.00
14	240 sq. m. TCT No. 382521 4BR Duplex	L30 B6 Sto. Nino Subd., Matatalaib, Tarlac City	431,400.00
15	269 sq. m. TCT No. 359910 379,100.00 2BR Bungalow	L7 B11 Sto. Nino Subd., Matatalaib, Tarlac City	
16	240 sq. m. TCT No. 383592 2BR Bungalow	L11 B11 #105 Sto. Nino Village, Matatalaib, Tarlac City	325,300.00
17	300 sq. m. TCT No. 366405 2BR Bungalow	Lot 25 Blk. 1 Sunrise Subd., Maliwalo, Tarlac City	528,800.00
18	240 sq. m. TCT No. 370953 2BR Bungalow	L1809-E #70 Centro, Matatalaib, Tarlac City	272,100.00
19	182 sq. m. TCT No. 266894 2BR Bungalow	L25 B9 Las Vegas St., Ninasville, Suizo, Tarlac City	438,800.00
20	181 sq. m. TCT No. 369557 2BR Bungalow	L16 B9 #6 Los Angeles St., Ninasville, Suizo, Tarlac City	449,400.00
21	130 sq. m. TCT No. 362522 2BR Bungalow	L5-D-12 #873 Altmans Subd., Cut-cut, Capas, Tarlac	155,700.00
22	240 sq. m. TCT No. 362520 2BR Bungalow	L17 B6 Sto. Domingo II, Capas, Tarlac	259,400.00
23	243 sq. m. TCT No. 362523 2BR Bungalow	L2 Blk. 7 Vargas Village, Sto. Domingo, Capas, Tarlac	220,300.00
24	300 sq. m. TCT No. 597763-R 4BR Duplex	L9 B8 Camia St., Sta. Maria Homesite Village, Sta. Ines, Mabalacat, Pampanga	794,900.00
25	200 sq. m. TCT No. 569349-R 2BR Bungalow	L3029-B-1 Bo. Baliti, Arayat, Pampanga	129,400.00
26	124 sq. m. TCT No. 587902-R 2BR Bungalow	L10 B5 Villa Luz Subd. I, Sta. Ines, Guagua, Pampanga	88,200.00
27	180 sq. m. TCT No. 528398-R 4BR Duplex	L16 B46 Dau Homesite Subd., Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga	376,400.00
28	200 sq. m. TCT No. 597734-R 3BR converted Duplex	L3 B3 Villa Barosa Subd., San Fernando, Pampanga	418,200.00
29	144 sq. m. TCT No. 539811-R 2BR converted duplex	L3874-B-12-C Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga	356,100.00
30	240 sq. m. TCT No. 587905-R 2BR Bungalow	L6 B3 Gumamela St., Villa Emilia, Porac, Pampanga	316,400.00
31	177 sq. m. TCT No.134985 2BR Bungalow	L16-A Villasol Subd., Santol, Angeles City, Pampanga	562,500.00
32	400 sq. m. TCT No. 132592 Abandoned/Cannibalized Duplex	L7 B25 6th Ave., Plaridel II, AMSIC, Angeles City	720,000.00
33	252 sq. m. TCT No. T-224671 2BR Bungalow	L2 B2 Karagatan Village, Phase II, Cabcaben, Mariveles, Bataan	340,000.00
34	300 sq. m. TCT No. T-218391 2BR Bungalow	Lot 4 Blk. 5 #24 Karagatan Village, Phase I, Alas-Asin, Cabcaben, Mariveles, Bataan	330,200.00
35	300 sq. m. TCT No. T-223383 3BR Bungalow	L12 B4 Karagatan Village Ph I, Alas-asin, Cabcaben, Mariveles, Bataan	494,000.00
36	116 sq. m. TCT No. T-11148 3BR Bungalow	L7-B B2 Family Subd., Sta. Rita, Olongapo City	267,500.00
37	272 sq. m. TCT No. T-11145 2BR Bungalow	L2 B6 Mercury St., Sta. Rita, Olongapo City	396,000.00
38	124 sq. m. TCT No. T-57978 2BR Bungalow	L11 B2 La Sirena Subd., Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	185,000.00
39	120 sq. m. TCT No. T-57976 2BR Bungalow	L26 B27 La Sirena Subd., Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	169,000.00
40	120 sq. m. TCT No. T-57490 2BR Bungalow	L30 B27 La Sirena Subd., Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	162,000.00
41	120 sq. m. TCT No. T-57981 2BR Bungalow	L28 B27 La Sirena Subd., Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	178,500.00
42	120 sq. m. TCT No. T-57975 2BR Bungalow	L10 B27 La Sirena Subd., Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	173,000.00
43	120 sq. m. TCT No. T-57500 2BR Bungalow	L14 B27 La Sirena Subd., Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	250,000.00
44	120 sq. m. TCT No. T-57493 2BR Bungalow	L8 B27 La Sirena Subd., Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	171,200.00
45	120 sq. m. TCT No. T-57501 vacant lot	L1 B6 La Sirena Subd., Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	156,000.00
46	120 sq. m. TCT No. T-57977 2BR Bungalow	L9 B4 La Sirena Subd., Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	182,000.00
47	137 sq. m. TCT No. T-57491 2 BR Bungalow	L11 B4 La Sirena Subd., Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	191,000.00

Complete description of the properties including Bidding Forms and Instructions to Bidders are available at the Housing and Asset Management Section, SSS Tarlac Branch Office, Macabulos Drive, San Vicente, Tarlac City. Please contact Engr. Mylene Nonette M. Zamora at Telephone Nos. (045) 982-1666 and 982-8600.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at the Asst. Vice President's Office, Tarlac Hub Branch Office from 8:00 a.m. to 1:59 p.m. on October 13, 2006. The bids should be labeled Acquired Assets Disposal Committee c/o Social Security System East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bidder's deposit, equivalent to at least 30% (if bidder is former owner, their spouses, parents and children) or 10% (if bidder does not fall under the preceding category) of the bid price in cash (Philippine money/ U.S. dollar) or in Certified Manager's Check in favor of SSS must be enclosed with the sealed bid. (Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable). The bidder must also sign the sealed envelope across its flap. Sealed bid without the bidder's deposit will not be entertained.

The award shall be made to the bidder who made the most advantageous offer to the SSS. As a rule, cash bids shall be preferred over installment bids. An installment bid shall, however, be considered as more advantageous if the installment bid is greater by at least 20% over a cash bid. In case of installment bids, the bid with the shortest payment period shall be preferred unless the difference in the bids is greater by at least 20%, in which case the bid with the longer payment period shall be considered more advantageous to the SSS.

The sale of the properties shall be "As Is, Where Is". The winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of the SSS.

After deducting the bid deposit from the Bid Price, the balance shall be payable either in cash within 30 days or amortized up to a maximum of 120 months at pre-determined interest rate. If bidder opts to amortize, proof of income (ITR, business permit or Certificate of Employment and Compensation) shall be among the documents for submission on bidding date. Upon approval of the sale, the buyer shall issue twelve (12) PDCs covering the first year of amortization and the same number of checks for each succeeding year until fully paid. Actual expenses or advances made by SSS for foreclosure and consolidation of title shall be added to purchase price of the former owner or his successor-in-interest should the fair market value is less than the consolidated value of the property.

The system reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein.

All awards shall be subject to the confirmation of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

(Sgd.) **AVP MARIANO PABLO S. TOLENTINO**
Chairperson, Acquired Assets Disposal Committee

(PDI - Sept. 22, 2006)

BISLIG CITY WATER DISTRICT

John Bosco Avenue, Mangagoy, Bislig City
8311 Surigao del Sur
Tel # (086) 853-2032 (Philcom); Telefax (086) 628-2092 (PLDT)
Website: www.biswad.gov.ph Email: bcwd@philcom.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bislig City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : FILTERING MACHINE FOR SAN ANTONIO WATER SOURCES
Location : Kauntuan Pumping Station, P.#6, Tabon, Bislig City
Brief Description : Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Automatic Self-cleaning Pressure Filter Machine with a Capacity of 100 LPS including the provision of 6.0m x 7.0m shed.
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 5,435,441.57
Contract Duration : 180 days
Project Reference No. : Goods – 02 – 06

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel & equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment is indicated in the Eligibility Form. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 14 - 27, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 28 - October 3, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements (Deadline)	October 4, 2006, 5:00 p.m.
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 5 - 10, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	October 11 - 17, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	October 23, 2006, 2:00 p.m.
7. Receipt of Bidding Documents	Oct. 24-Nov. 6, 2006, 2:00 p.m.
8. Opening of Bids	November 6, 2006, 2:00 p.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Bislig City Water District Office, John Bosco Avenue, Mangagoy, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P200.00 to the Bislig City Water District Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue bidding Documents only to the bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the Bislig City Water District Cashier.

The Bislig City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

NOTE: An amendement of IAEB of the above named entity published on September 14, 2006 has effected change reclassifying the project from "Infrastructure" to "Goods".

(Sgd.) **DR. ROLAND S. SARMIENTO, DM**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 14 & 22, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Metro Roxas Water District
MRWD Bldg., Km. 1, Roxas City 5800, Philippines
Tel. # (036) 6210-737 / 6210-044 / 6215-474
Telefax # (036) 6216-083

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
No. 011-06

The METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT (MRWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, MISCELLANEOUS HARDWARE AND LABOR COST FOR INSTALLATION
Location : NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT SOLOCON, PANITAN, CAPIZ
Brief Description : 3 UNITS OF 500 KVA DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER
3 UNITS OF CURRENT TRANSFORMER
3 UNITS OF POTENTIAL TRANSFORMER
3 UNITS OF COMBINATION CUT-OUT W/ LIGHTNING ARRESTER
1 UNIT KILOWATT METER KV2C WITH K SWITCH
1 LOT MISC. HARDWARE INCLUDING LABOR COST FOR INSTALLATION
Approved Budget for The Contract : Php 4,511,100.00
Source of Funding : PROJECT EQUITY BY ADMINISTRATION
Contract Duration : 60 CALENDAR DAYS
Delivery Period : 60 CALENDAR DAYS

The Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check, will be opened Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations A (IRR-A)

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Advertisement	September 12-26, 2006
2.	Issuance of Bid Documents	September 27-October 7, 2006
3.	Pre-bid Conference	October 8, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.
4.	Pre-qualification conference	October 20, 2006 @ 2.00 p.m.
5.	Deadline for Submission of Bids	October 20, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.
6.	Opening of Bids	October 20, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.
7.	Bid Evaluation	October 23, 2006
8.	Post-qualification	October 26, 2006
9.	Notice of Award	November 3, 2006

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by.

(Sgd.) **GONZALO GLEN B. DELGADO**
BAC Chairman

Address : Metro Roxas Water District
MRWD Bldg , Km. 1, Roxas City, Capiz

(PDI – September 18 & 22, 2006)

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO BID

The Pag-IBIG Fund is inviting interested individuals, juridical persons, Fund officers and employees to submit offers to purchase by way of individual Sealed Bids on an "AS IS, WHERE IS Basis" for the following unserviceable Motor vehicles:

DESCRIPTION	NO. OF UNITS
1996 Toyota Corolla XL	5 units
1993 Toyota Tamaraw FX 1.5	1 unit
1994 Toyota Tamaraw FX Wagon	12 units
1995 Mitsubishi Lancer	9 units
1994 Honda Civic Esi, Sedan	7 units
1995 Nissan Vanette	1 unit
TOTAL	**35 units**

Bidding Guidelines will be available at the Property Custodianship Division, General Services Department, Rm 704, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, City of Makati beginning September 21, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Hundred Pesos (P 100.00) only.

Pre-bid conference shall be held on September 29, 2006 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at Room 602, 6th floor, Multi-Purpose Hall, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Schedule of submission and opening of bids will be announced during the said conference.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the Fund. Further, the Pag-IBIG Fund assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Cesar V. Racoma at 894-58-15 or 811-42-62.

(Sgd.) **DELIA L. BERNARDO**
Vice President, Administration Group
Chair, Disposal Committee

(PDI--Sept. 21, 22 & 23, 2006)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFICATION AND SEALED BIDDING

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) has received a subsidy from the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The proceed of subsidy is for construction of the line under the Rural electrification Program

Interested parties are hereby invited to a Pre-Qualification and sealed Bidding for supply of hereunder mention project

Project : Construction of distribution line for 13 barangays under AWP'06
Location : NORSAMELCO Coverage area
Contract : Supply of materials
Amount : Php 12.5M

PACKAGE	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	
1	Pole Line Hardware	1	lot
2	Conductor, Bare No 2 AWG 6/1 Brand: Unicon, Phelp Dodge or American Wire Cable	69,500.00	meters
3	Conductor, Bare No. 1/0 AWG 6/1 Brand: Unicon, Phelp Dodge or American Wire Cable	19,400.00	meters
4	Transformer, double bushing with external tap changer (Brand new (Philec, Wagner or equivalent) 15 Kva 25 Kva	15 1	units unit
5	Poles, Wood a. 40', class 3	2	pcs.
6	Poles, Steel eight sides, 2.5mm thick hot dip galvanized, A36, ASTM 123 a. 30'/4-top dia - 100mm bottom dia-200mm; 2 sections b. 35'/4-top dia-120mm, bottom dia 210mm, 2 sections	365 75	pcs. pcs.
7	Supply of labor	1	lot

Bid forms will be issued after passing of Eligibility of Bid and upon payment of Seven Thousand Pesos (Php7,000.00) non-refundable.

Acceptance of letter of intent Receipt of Eligibility Requirement (ie Legal, financial documents, list of similar contract, address, amount date)	September 19-30, 2006
Issuance of Eligibility to Bid	October 1-7, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference/Issuance of Bid	October 17, 2006 @ 10:00 AM
Documents Opening of Sealed Bid	October 31, 2006 @ 10.00 AM

Only qualified bidders who were passed during the pre-qualification screening will be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bid proposals must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in an acceptable form.

The PBAC will use non discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility check/Screening as well as the preliminary examination of Bids. The PBAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest bid.

NORSAMELCO hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein, and to accept such bids as may be deemed advantageous to NORSAMELCO.

For further information please contact the following nos. 0917-3042867/09173619744/Telefax 055-2518163.

(Sgd) **NILO A. ESTOPA**
Chairman

Noted by: (Sgd) **SALVADOR G. HERNANDEZ**
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 19 & 22, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Janitorial, Messengerial & Other Manpower Requirements of PEZA

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 6,891,613.64 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Janitorial, Messengerial and Other Manpower Requirements of PEZA for a period of one (1) year. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Janitorial, Messengerial and Other Manpower Requirements of PEZA. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and at least five (5) years experience in the general services industry. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours, Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 15 - 29 September 2006, Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP5,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 06 October 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 20 October 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 20 October 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F Almeda Building III, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No.891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www.peza.gov.ph

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Sept. 15 & 22, 2006)

WINROCK INTERNATIONAL
Department of Energy

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was executed between Winrock International and DOE on December 23, 2005 for the energization of twenty-one (21) off-grid barangays in Zamboanga Peninsula using solar PV systems. Adopting the Sustainable Solar Market Packages (SSMP), Winrock International will energize these areas through the funds provided by the DOE under its Barangay Electrification Project (BEP) funds.

This call for eligibility and to bid is to supply, deliver, install, commission and provide maintenance services for a number of solar photovoltaic systems in public facilities and end use appliances in twenty one (21) barangays as well as to commercially sell and market of solar home systems (SHS) in the provinces of Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte.

1. WI-AMORE intends to apply the sum of Twenty One Million Pesos (Php 21,000,000.00) as the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract entitled Project ACCESS / WI-Amore Contract. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening.
2. For full details on Project ACCESS, visit www.rpp.com.ph
3. WI-AMORE invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, installation, commissioning and provision of maintenance services for five (5) years for PV systems installed in twenty one (21) barangays as well as commercially sell and market solar home systems to private customers. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Instructions to Bidders (ITB).
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria. Only bids that pass an eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the Bid to technical and financial requirements of the Project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LRCB) as determined during the post-qualification procedure
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from WI-AMORE and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9.00 am to 5:00 pm; Monday through Friday.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents and corresponding electronic copy may be secured by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00 from the address below starting Wednesday, 20 September 2006. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representatives.
7. WI-AMORE will hold a Pre-Bid conference open to all interested parties on October 03, 2006, 10:00 am at Unit 1509, 15th Floor, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
8. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 16, 2006, 10:00 am. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
9. Bid opening shall be on October 16, 2006, 10:30 am at AMORE Office, Unit 1509, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
10. WI-AMORE reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, with out thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

WI-Amore Review and Awards Team
Unit 1509, 15th Floor, Jollibee Plaza
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(PDI - Sept. 22, 2006)

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Department of Education, Training and Research
announces the opening of the following courses in
Technical Training in Vascular Medicine and Echocardiography
The course is aimed to provide the participant with the necessary basic theory and techniques including practical hands-on experience and or updates of the present level of training for Vascular Technicians and Cardiac Sonographers.
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2. Registered/BS Nursing graduates
3. Registered/BS PT graduates
4. Registered/BS Radio Grads
Registration in the Cardiac Sonographers Course will be limited to 12 participants to 4 participants in the Vascular Technician Course.
Cardiac Sonographers Course will start on September 26, 2006 with final registration date of September 25, 2006.
Schedule for Vascular Technician Course will be announced soon.
Please call telephone number 925-2401 local 3828, 3830 look for Mr. Elmer Collong or Ms. Grace Caamic.

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ERRATUM

In the INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID of **Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority**'s various equipments published on this paper dated Sept. 21, 2006, the non-refundable amount of Bid documents should be **P1,500.00** instead of P1,000.00 as printed.

Our apologies.

(PDI – Sept. 22, 2006)

Ulrich - HR guru to speak at PMAP confab

WORLD-RENOWNED and top international human resource (HR) expert Dave Ulrich will speak at the 43rd Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) set on Sept. 27-29 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Ortigas.

The PMAP Annual Conference, with its theme "Inspiring MVPs, Creating New HeRoes," is a three-day assembly of HR professionals from all over the country who will discuss the role of HR profession as a value-adding partner and player in business and in nation building.

Dave Ulrich is a Professor of Business Administration at the University of Michigan where he is on the core faculty of the Michigan Executive Program, Co-Director of Michigan's Human Resource Executive Program, and Advanced Human Resource Executive Program. His teaching and research concentration is on how to create an organization that adds value to employees, customers, and investors.

Prof. Ulrich also studies how organizations change fast, build capabilities, learn, remove boundaries, and leverage human resource activities, and has consulted for and done research with over half of the companies belonging to the Fortune 200. He is also a Fellow in the National Academy of Human Resources, and is co-founder of the Michigan Human Resource Partnership.

PMAP is the professional organization of over 1,800 member-companies and individual management executive engaged in human resource management and industrial relations. It has 19 chapters all over the country. Celebrating its golden anniversary this year, PMAP continues the tradition of advancing the profession, the science, and the art of human resource management.

For information on the conference, you may contact the PMAP Center at 726-1532 / 81 / 88 or at pmap@pmap.org.ph.

OBITUARIES

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

DR. JOSE B. MANIWANG, SR., PhD

of MANABO, ABRA
President, Security & Safety Corporation of the Philippines

Peacefully joined our Lord and his parents and wife on September 18, 2006 at the age of 86.

His children: **Eduardo, Reynaldo, Jose Jr., Antonio, Corazon, Josefina, Cecilia, Manolito** and **Cornelio;** daughters-in-law, grandchildren, relatives, colleagues, friends and staff request the pious readers to join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment shall be on September 24, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, at 9:00 A.M.

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.
Psalm 116:15

Felicitas Villarama Cunanan

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 21, 2006 at the age of 87.

Her loving children **Eddie** & **Cherry**, **Rony** & **Connie**, **Cherry** & **Jun Villena**, **Cynch** & **Estoy Estorninos**, **Aris** & **Dena** and **Abet**; grandchildren and great grandchildren; in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Agoncillo Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Parañaque City and will be transferred on Saturday morning, September 23, 2006 at her residence in Marungko, Angat, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 24, 2006 at the Angat Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Immaculate Concepcion Chapel, Marungko, Angat, Bulacan.

In Loving Memory on the Third Death Anniversary of our Beloved

Pilar Cueto-Leachon

(January 25, 1935 – September 22, 2003)
of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro

"Mommy, we weathered storms and enjoyed sunny days with you. You worked hard to make our dreams come true. Together we learned the value of life and loving. We are extremely delighted to have you as our mother. We will always love you ."

HOLY MASSES WILL BE OFFERED TODAY AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Proj. 6, Quezon City	6:00 am
St. Anthony Shrine, 454 Manrique St., Sampaloc, Manila	6:00 am
Shrine of Mother of Perpetual Help, Baclaran, Paranaque City	6:00 am
St. Jude Parish, J.P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila	6:00 am
Black Nazarene Parish, Quiapo, Manila	6:00 am
St. Benedict Chaplaincy, Lalud, Calapan City Or. Mindoro	6:00 am
Sto. Nino Parish Church, Calapan City Or. Mindoro	6:00 am
Benedictine Nuns Monastery Chapel, San Rafael, Calapan City Or. Mindoro	6:00 am

Her loving husband Judge Emilio L. Leachon, Jr., children Jojo and Joey, Dr. Tony and Dra. Marge, Marita and Francis, Lito and Alfa, Beck and Johnny, Archie and Adel, Atty. Doy and Rona, grandchildren RJ, JM and Chichi, Mikan, Vana and Jolo, Dianne, Gef and Alyanna, April, Biboy and Marie, Xerox and Mark, Caroline, Buboy and Gabby, Red and Beige, request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember her in their prayers on her third death anniversary.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

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BUSINESS

Invest more in human resources, gov't told

Enhanced education, health services

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK HAS CALLED ON the Philippine government to invest more in the development of human capital, through enhanced education and health services, now that its fiscal condition has improved.

Loraine Hawkins, the World Bank's human development coordinator, said that improving the quality of education and health services were as necessary as building infrastructure support in efforts to achieve economic growth objectives in the long run.

Hawkins acknowledged though that the country's fiscal woes in the past was a valid reason for the tight spending on health and education.

"The rise in revenues should create more space for the development of human capital. But this should not be the sole task of the national government, local government units (should help)," she said during the launch of the multilateral agency's 2007 World Development Report yesterday.

Hawkins raised concerns over the poor access of Filipino women to basic maternal health services, which was either because health facilities in private hospitals were not affordable to many or that public hospitals did not have enough facilities.

She said maternal mortality remained one of the challenges that the Philippines had to hurdle.

Quoting World Bank figures, Hawkins said there were about 180 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births in the Philippines.

Emmanuel Jimenez, lead author of the World Development Report, said that while the Philippines had made substantial progress in the last 30 years in terms of the number of youths attending school, the quality of education they receive was still a big question.

Jimenez said the country's advantage of having educated labor force was becoming more and more challenged by efforts of other Asian countries to develop their human capital.

He said the government could not separate the goal of poverty reduction from the requirement of developing human capital. "Because labor is the main asset of the poor, making it more productive is the best way to reduce poverty," Jimenez said in the report.

The Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Finance earlier said the government acknowledged the need to improve the delivery of education and social services. The government intends to increase spending for these sectors, although at a gradual manner, as revenues are expected to increase in the coming years.

The Arroyo administration has proposed a P1.136-trillion budget for next year. Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said that of the amount, social services will account for P335.4 billion compared to last year's only P256.8 billion.

Rice production seen exceeding 2006 target

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY'S RICE PRODUCTION THIS year is projected to exceed the full-year target of 15.4 million metric tons, with the fourth-quarter yields seen posting bigger growth, the Department of Agriculture said.

Frisco Malabanan, director of the department's rice program, said the optimism was based on current standing crops and the additional 57,000 hectares planted to hybrid rice.

Malabanan said farms planted to hybrid rice yielded an average of 6.2 tons per hectare, as against the 2 to 4 tons yield of those planted to traditional varieties.

The department aims at surpassing this year the 189,000 hectares planted to hybrid rice last year, he added.

The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, an agency of the DA, said rice production in the second half of the year was expected to grow by 3.8 percent, with the 1.2 percent increase in the areas planted to palay and the 2.5 percent improvement in yield per hectare.

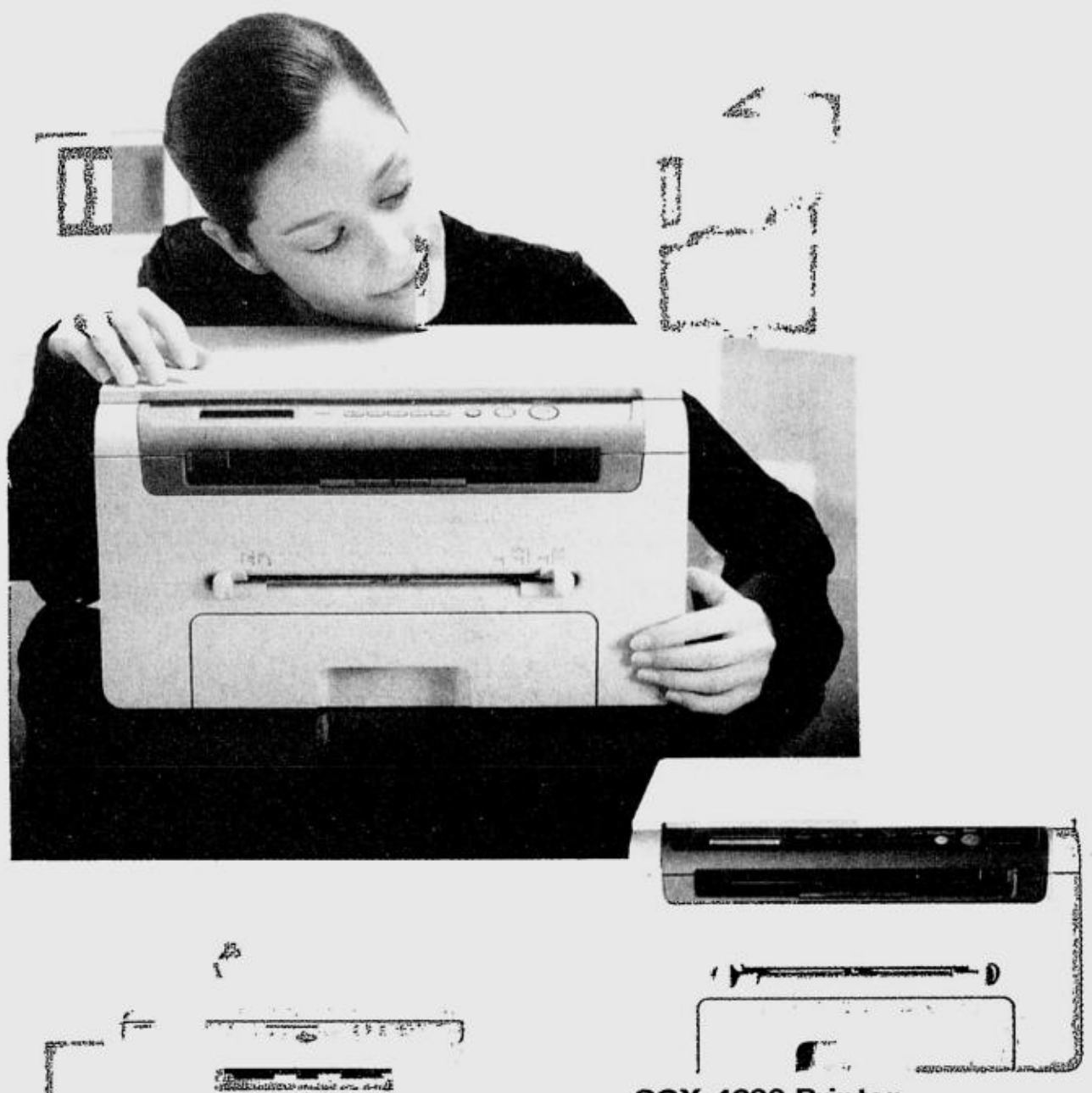
Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban said he was confident the sector would hit or even surpass the target.

In the first half of the year, the farm sector, which makes up a fifth of the country's economic output, grew 5.14 percent, fueled by the significant increases in the production of rice and corn.

For 2007, Panganiban said palay production was seen to hit a record of 16 million MT, or about 4 percent higher than this year's target.

"The increase in rice production will be achieved primarily through the restyling of (the rice) program implementation at the field level," said Panganiban.

Under the reprogramming or restyling of rice planting, he explained, farmers stopped planting in flood-prone areas in major rice-producing regions during the typhoon season and increase planting activities in less vulnerable areas.



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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Free business advice, anyone?

GoNegosyo sets up website to help budding entrepreneurs

By Riza T. Olchondra

GETTING BUSINESS tips from successful entrepreneurs and industry experts used to entail huge fees and patience in arranging consultations. Not anymore.

Entrepreneurship program GoNegosyo, which has been fostering linkages between budding entrepreneurs, experts and funding sources, has opened a web site that offers free mentoring services to small and medium businesses in today's mobile world.

TECHNONEGOSYO FORUM AND EXPO AT WORLD TRADE CENTER. Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, head of Ayala Corp. speaks at the forum "profiling the technopreneur."

JAMES BARR / CONTRIBUTOR

Membership at http://gonegosyo.net is free and anyone can register to avail of free consultations with 26 mentors. A member only has to send a question to any of the 26 mentors, who will answer via e-mail.

Joey Concepcion III, president

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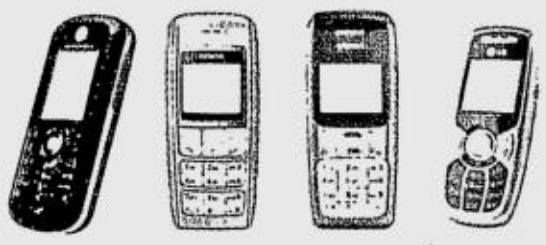

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Survey reveals lifestyle of Manila consumers

Patterns and attitudes of the A,B,C,D socio groups

SYNOVATE, A GLOBAL market intelligence company, recently released data from the first Media Atlas survey in the Philippines, providing advertisers and media agencies with insights into the ABCD socioeconomic classes of Greater Manila.

Synovate managing director Philippines Carole Sarthou said the results show dramatically increased reach for media aimed at the affluent and middle classes, especially for newspapers and magazines.

"The Media Atlas survey has tapped into the key Greater Manila market, revealing significantly larger audiences across a broad spread of quality products and services and discovering more about the consumption patterns and attitudes of the ABCD socio group," she said.

Consumers with a monthly household income of P8,000 or more across Greater Manila were asked about their media consumption, ownership of a range of products, lifestyle, values and attitudes.

Who do we speak with?

The survey covers a representative sample of respondents aged 15 to 64 years in households earning more than P8,000 per month.

Synovate Head of media research Steve Garton said that over 80 percent of the capital's population fall into the ABCD socio category.

"This large sector of society—some 6.9 million people—wields huge economic power and is of great importance to marketers and advertisers. The media they use is vital to reaching them in large numbers.

"Sixty-five percent of these consumers say they like looking through advertisements in magazines and newspapers.

"Indeed, the middle and upper class group we discovered is also much larger, thanks to the hybrid research method we employed," he added.

How do we speak with them?

Synovate Media Atlas uses computer assisted telephone (CATI) and face-to-face interviews. This methodology overcomes the issue of home security barriers erected by the wealthier Manila residents faced by other methods, while ensuring all relevant socio groups are covered.

Respondents, universe size

- Respondents are from the Greater Manila area, aged 15+.
- Thirty-eight percent work full or part time and 13 percent are self employed.
- The majority of AB individuals are well educated with 66 percent having college degrees or higher. Thirty-seven percent of the total ABCD socio group have college degrees or higher.
- More than one in 10 households (11.7 percent) are in the AB socio group and have a monthly household income greater than P50,000 per month.
- 13.6 percent of households are upper C socio, with a monthly household income between P30,000 to P50,000; 25.9 percent of households are broad C socio, and earn P15,000 to 30,000 per month.

What did we find?

Media consumption

For the list of newspapers and magazines covered, the survey found the following among all ABCD socio group households with a monthly household income (HHI) greater than P8,000:

Daily newspapers (yesterday readership):

- 42 percent read a daily newspaper
- 20 percent read an English daily newspaper
- 31 percent read a Tagalog daily newspaper

Sunday newspapers (past 7-day readership):

- 42 percent read a Sunday newspaper
- 28 percent read an English Sunday newspaper
- 27 percent read a Tagalog

Sunday newspaper magazines (average issue readership):

- 47 percent read a magazine
- Male and female readership is relatively even. 48 percent of males and 52 percent of females read some type of magazine.
- 21 percent read a men's or business magazine listed; 21 percent read a women's or home magazine listed; and 34 percent read one of the general interest/lifestyle magazines listed.

Broadcast media:

- The most popular type of television shows include local news (66 percent), comedies (64 percent), cooking (61 percent), music videos (58 percent), game shows (52 percent), local movies (50 percent), variety shows (48 percent) and celebrity news, gossip and entertainment (48 percent).
- 82 percent had listened to a radio station in the past seven days.

About product ownership

Of all households in the ABCD socio group:

- 30 percent own a digital camera (73 percent for AB group)
- 68 percent own a DVD player (94 percent for AB group)
- 78 percent own a VCD player (88 percent for AB group)
- 12 percent own a plasma TV (24 percent for AB group)
- 33 percent own an MP3 player or iPod (67 percent for AB group)
- 16 percent have a Hi-Fi system (35 percent for AB group)
- 67 percent have a CD player (94 percent for AB group)
- 17 percent have a laptop or notebook computer and 42 percent own a desktop computer (42 percent and 84 percent respectively for AB group)
- 25 percent have a mobile phone with Internet access (59 percent for AB group)
- 61 percent have a mobile phone without Internet access (77 percent for AB group)
- 21 percent own a digital videocam (61 percent for AB group)
- 43 percent have any car (78 percent for AB group); 20 percent have a sedan or family car (55 percent for AB group); 17 percent own a motorcycle (20 percent for AB group); and 7 percent own a jeep or jeepney (8 percent for AB group)
- 42 percent have a microwave oven (85 percent for AB group)
- 89 percent have a refrigerator (99 percent for AB group)
- 87 percent have a washing machine (97 percent for AB group)

About Internet access

- 74 percent of all households with income greater than P50,000 per month have access to the Internet. Eighteen percent of these have broadband access.
- 39 percent of all ABCD socio households have Internet access. 6 percent of these have broadband.

About finances

Among those with a monthly household income greater than P50,000:

- 51 percent own a credit card
- 55 percent have some form of insurance
- 12 percent have a housing loan
- 21 percent own a property for investment (not for residing)
- 17 percent own stocks or shares

About leisure and travel

- One quarter of all respondents had been to the movies in the past month—46 percent for those with monthly HHI greater than P50,000. More men (28 percent) than women (23 percent) went to a movie in the past month.
- The most popular ways for Filipinos to relax are resting (89 percent), spending time with family (86 percent), listening to music (74 percent), eating out (72 percent), listening to the radio (68 percent), and chatting with friends (66 percent).
- Three quarters had visited a fast-food restaurant in the past month.
- 92 percent of AB socio group respondents had been to a department store or mall in the past month.
- Basketball is the most popular sport, nominated by 45 percent of respondents.
- 85 percent of residents caught a jeepney in the last month, and 78 percent in the last seven days, making them the most popular form of public transport. Buses (55 percent ABCD past 30 days) are used more by lower socioeconomic groups while taxis (59 percent AB past 30 days) enjoy more upscale patronage.

About attitudes

Respondents were asked if they agreed with a variety of statements. The results for those saying they agree or agree very much are:

- 86 percent are interested in what their parents say.
- Variety may be the spice of life for affluent consumers. 83 percent of socio group A like a lot of variety in their lives compared to 67 percent of socio group D.
- 73 percent of respondents like to try new things.
- Social status is important to 64 percent of all respondents but it is more important to men (67 percent) than women (62 percent).
- 57 percent of socio group A respondents like to be the leader of a group rather than a follower, compared with 37 percent of socio group D respondents.
- Brand trust is more important to lower socio groups than higher. 62 percent of socio group D will buy the brand they trust when pressed for time compared with 45 percent of socio group A.
- More men (41 percent) than women (35 percent) prefer to buy designer goods or brands.
- Women are more cynical of marketing than men. 53 percent of men have greater trust in products they have seen advertised compared with 46 percent of women.
- SMS is a major form of communication for 81 percent of the population reinforcing the popular view of the Philippines as the SMS capital of the world.
- Men (58 percent) are more likely than women (52 percent) to think married life is better than single life, as are socio group D respondents (58 percent) compared with socio group A respondents (44 percent).
- A balance between life and work is hard for many. 55 percent of men and 49 percent of women think it is not possible to have a successful career and family life at the same time.
- While both men (49 percent and women (48 percent) believe in taking exercise, far more men (58 percent) than women (36 percent) actually participate in sport to keep healthy.
- 86 percent claim to eat healthy food in order to stay healthy.

THE ABCD socio category has some 6.9 million people and wields huge economic power.

Strike a balance in dealing with customers and employees

AN APPLIANCE COMPANY whose way of doing is based on God's principles and whose manager considers himself merely as a steward of the Lord, is truly unique in this day and age.

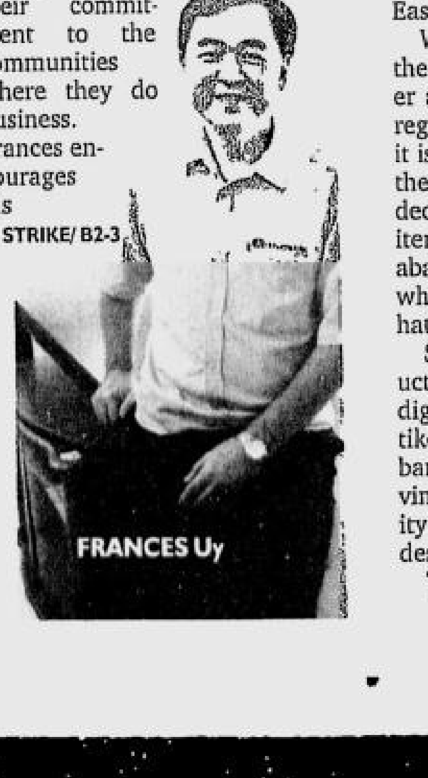
One wonders if any such company exist. There is such a company and it is Mindanao Solidmark Inc. in Cagayan de Oro City.

In 1970, when it opened its doors to the buying public, it was managed by Francisco Rolida who later turned it over to his brother-in-law Frances Uy. Frances had finished architecture and was in the construction business. But those were uncertain times and he had to set his sights elsewhere in order to survive. His brother-in-law's decision to turn over management of Solidmark to him was a heaven sent opportunity and set the tone of his style of management. He made his personal goal the improvement of his community and the welfare of his employee.

Branches in Iligan, Pagadian, Dipolog, Butuan and Surigao cities were opened after Frances took over. There are eight stores in northern Mindanao, which are in line with their goal of concentrating business in the region. As a retail appliance store, Solidmark sells all kinds of appliances with well known brands and labels. Solidmark also sells musical instruments with distinctive brands. There is a perception that Solidmark caters only to the upscale market but it is an impression that they would like to correct. Their product offerings are intended for the A, B and C markets and priced accordingly. For them, striking a balance in their dealings with customers, as well as their employees, is of paramount importance. Balance is also a keyword in their expansion plans. Thus, after more than 36 years in the business, they consider it a great privilege to serve their happy patrons, as well as provide jobs for the families of their employees. For Solidmark, major business decisions must be the outcome of reflection and soul searching. Their philosophy of balance in all their business decisions complements Samsung's practice of business wisdom, diligence and integrity.

Setting the standards in products offerings, customer relations and service, as well as employee relations are what Solidmark considers its most solid accomplishment and hopes to improve for the next generation. One very unique practice of Solidmark and which is reflective of the personal philosophy of Uy is its emphasis on the spiritual aspect of life. This can be gleaned from their dealings with their customers, their relations with their employees and their commitment to the communities where they do business. Frances encourages his

STRIKE/ B2-3



FRANCES Uy

Not just for Eastern Visayans

TACLOBAN CITY—EASTERN Visayas has once again invaded the big city, bringing along its famous colorful banig, popular tuba wine, delectable binagol, and many other goods.

Eastern Visayas, composed of the three islands—Samar, Leyte and Biliran—also showcases the "latest, newest and best products in the region" in a five-day trade fair dubbed as Bahandi 2006 Regional Trade Fair that is being held at the Megatrade Mall 3, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

The trade fair kicked off on Sept. 20 and will culminate on Sunday, Sept. 24, 2006.

Cynthia Nierras, regional director of the Department of Trade and Industry here, said more than 70 micro, small and medium enterprises from the provinces of Leyte, Southern Leyte, Biliran, Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar are participating in this year's Bahandi trade fair at the SM Megamall.

Bahandi means treasure trove in the Waray dialect, and the Bahandi trade fair features processed foods, gifts, toys, housewares, fashion accessories, shellcraft, and holiday decors, among many other products of Eastern Visayas.

With the region considered as the country's top abaca producer and as among the top three regions in coconut production, it is not surprising that many of the fashion accessories, holiday decors, handicrafts and other items being sold in the fair are abaca- or coconut-based, whether these are bags, baskets, hats or place mats.

Some of the beautiful products are made out of other indigenous materials like the tikog, pandan, seagrass, raffia, bamboo, seashells and forest vines. These products used quality materials and come in new designs, shapes and colors.

MATS or banig (woven tikog reeds). (Inset) Shellcraft items

PHOTOS BY VEN LABRO

The fair also showcases native delicacies as binagol, pastillas de leche and hopia de pili, among other traditional sweets of the region. Binagol is made of a grated root crop known as talyan, which is mixed and then cooked with grounded glutinous rice, milk, margarine, pounded peanuts and vanilla. Then this is placed inside a half-a-coconut shell, and a sweet concoction is stored inside the mixture before this is wrapped in banana leaves and cooked.

Pastillas de leche, as the name denotes, is a sweet made out of milk—the milk of a carabao or water buffalo—that is mixed with condensed milk and sugar, then cooked, flattened and wrapped in Japanese paper. Hopia de pili is grounded meat of the pili nut that is placed inside a dough before it is baked.

Other delicacies sold in the trade fair are the mouth-watering traditional cakes and pastries, such as pastillas de ube, cocadas, roscas, corioso and torta, as well as cassava cake, moron, piñato, salvaro and candied pili.

The recipes and culinary skills for these native delicacies have been passed on from one generation to the next. Only served in the past during special occasions such as weddings, birthdays and fiestas, these cakes, pastries and sweets are now being sold by these small entrepreneurs all year round.

Leyteños and Samarnons who are now living in the big city can buy some favorite Waray foods at the fair, among them the tinapa (smoked fish), sese (fermented baby oyster), keseyo (native cheese), podpod (fish cake), bulad and barol (dried fish or squid) and processed tahong and bangus. There are also the tuba, bahalina, vodka and red wine, which are made out of coconut sap or coconut water, for the men longing for the traditional Waray wine.

Started in 1989, the Bahandi trade fair has been providing small entrepreneurs from Eastern Visayas a chance to meet more buyers and to gain exposure in the national and international market.

Participants of the Bahandi started joining the trade fair as a novice, but since then their products and businesses improved with the help of the DTI and other institutions like the Product Development and Design Center Philippines, among others, and with their exposures to the national and international markets through the trade fair.

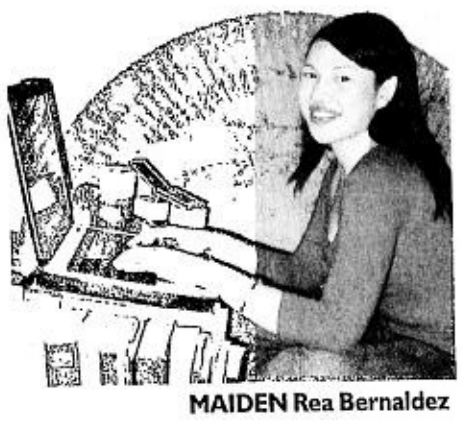
Most of them are villagers who started their business as micro-enterprises. Today, some of these entrepreneurs are already selling abroad while others have business partners or regular buyers from Metro Manila.

According to Lemuel Montes, DTI regional information officer here, the Bahandi trade fair helps expose Eastern Visayas producers to the urban market and at the same time promotes the products of the One-Town-One-Product (Otop) and agrarian reform beneficiaries in the region.

The Department of Trade and Industry regional office here and the Bahandi Producers Association of Eastern Visayas are the implementers of this year's Bahandi trade fair, with the PhilExport, Citem, APFTI, Peace and Equity Foundation, and the Regional Development Council of Eastern Visayas as support agencies.

Ven Labro

New system scores with students



MAIDEN Rea Bernaldez

IN A QUIET NOOK IN HER CONDO UNIT, 18-year-old Maiden Rea Bernaldez powers up her laptop. Within seconds, she's on multiple websites searching for reference materials for her term paper. She also watches funny videos on YouTube and downloads MP3s simultaneously while surfing. Her PLDT myDSL delivers everything in a flash.

PLDT installed NxGN in her building in April 2006. This Mass Communication student reaps the benefits of PLDT's Next Generation Network, a breakthrough fiber-optic technology that allows voice, data and video to travel at the speed of light.

Maiden recalls how her PLDT myDSL's performance a few months back.

"It was slower and I can visit few sites at a time. The Internet speed of myDSL would also vary from time to time. There are times when downloading is a cinch and then there are times when it would take forever," she recounts.

She noticed a marked difference after NxGN was installed.

"Now I can check out websites faster and download more files in less time when I do my research. I can also download two to three songs without waiting too long. It really helped me a lot when it comes to meeting my deadlines," she says.

PLDT likens NxGN to a laser beam—quiet, efficient and exceptionally quick in transmitting voice calls, data and multimedia seamlessly and simultaneously. On NxGN, PLDT subscribers can talk on the phone with greater clarity, surf the Internet without lagging and, soon, watch television shows on Internet Protocol Television or IPTV.

"NxGN allows us to deliver triple play services—voice, data and video, easily. We're just waiting to tap NxGN's full potential. And when we do, the whole country will benefit from it," says Patrick Tang, PLDT assistant vice president for retail Acquisition.

For 2006, PLDT is planning to spend nearly half of its budget or at least P9 billion in deploying around 300,000 NxGN-capable fixed lines nationwide, most especially to Visayas and Mindanao. All this comes at no expense to PLDT subscribers.

For more information, call 171, log on to www.mypad.net

Free business advice...

From page B2-1

of food and beverage giant RFM Corp. and presidential adviser for entrepreneurship, says the GoNegosyo program and web site were made so that every Filipino entrepreneur can receive help even if they are not based in Metro Manila, where many resources are found.

Getting ideas and inspiration is important, says Binalot Fiesta Foods, Inc. president Rommel Juan, one supporter of the mentoring site. Binalot is the food shop that serves Filipino fare like rice and adobo wrapped in banana leaves.

Juan credits his entrepreneural relatives, which includes Figaro founder Chit Juan, for giving him advice on what to watch out for, how to sustain his enthusiasm for Binalot foods and how to keep his business running even when times are hard. Others are not as lucky, he says.

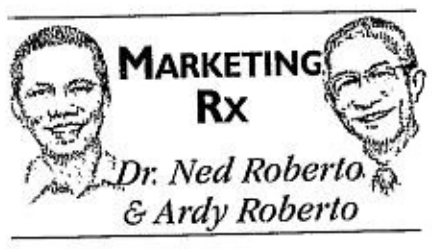
On the prospect of having those he teaches using his "secrets" to become competitors, Juan says, "There is no real secret in business except hard work and passion."

And to help keep entrepreneurs passionate about business, the web site complements the interactive mentoring program with podcasts, fora, announcements and blogs packed with more tips from the likes of National Bookstore founder Socorro Ramos. All these services are also free.

The "mentors" include Concepcion himself, Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. president Ricardo Cuna, Splash Corp. founder Dr. Rolando Hortaleza, Rommel Juan, Gapuz Review Center founder Ray Gapuz.

Also French Baker owner Johnlu Koa, Big Chill owner Alexis Ledesma, Island Souvenirs owner Jay Aldeguer, rice trader Henry Lim-Bon Liong, Lots a Pizza's Teresita Ngan Tian and Celestino Reyes of Reyes Haircutters, Bobson's Victor Tan.

David Aaker on the challenges a successful chief marketing officer faces



THE SEARCH IS ON FOR THE BEST chief marketing officers in the Philippines. The Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) has just closed its nominations phase for this year's batch of Agora Awardees to be recognized this November. On the other hand, The Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA) foundation is still accepting nominations for the best and brightest young chief marketing officers below the age of 35. (Visit www.youngmarketmasters.com for details.)

So now the questions that are being thrown at us recently go like this: What will it take to become a successful chief marketing officer (CMO), not only today, but in the future? What challenges will the CMO have to face and overcome?

Continuing our series of consulting world renowned marketing gurus to answer your questions, this time we turn to Prof. David A. Aaker, one of the senior MRx-ers idols. Aaker now serves as vice chair of Prophet Brand Strategies, a San Francisco consulting firm founded on the basis of Aaker's brand principles by two of his former students, Scott Galloway and Ian Chaplin, both from the MBA class of 1992. He is also an advisor to Dentsu Worldwide (the world's largest ad agency), professor emeritus of Marketing Strategy at the Haas School of Business, University of California at Berkeley, and a globally recognized authority on brands and brand management. Aaker has published more than 100 articles and twelve books, including Strategic Market Management, Managing Brand Equity and Building Strong Brands. Professor Aaker will be a featured speaker, along with brand gurus Jack Trout, Martin Lindstrom and Faith Popcorn, at the Global Brand Forum (www.globalbrandforum.org) in Singapore this November 2006.

David Aaker

"The marketing function of the future will continue to be polarized. Chief Marketing Officers within firms that view marketing as tactical and who are preoccupied with short-term financials will struggle to have real impact. Other CMOs, increasingly, I believe, the majority, will elevate marketing to be a visible driver of success by being a strategic partner within the firm.

"In the latter group, the CMO and his or her team will have been successful at addressing five challenges. CMOs of the future will successfully address 5 challenges:

"**Clutter**. First, they will find ways to generate home run brand-building programs that break out of the clutter even at the sacrifice of schedules and budgets. This will involve creative thinking, organizational tolerance for change, and talent in execution. It will also involve the capability of drawing upon a wide spectrum of resources, including the use of influentials in the marketplace, guerrilla marketing, leveraging the Internet and connecting with the customer's activities and values.

"**Growth through business development**. Second, marketing will be the driver behind achieving growth through business development, a priority for most CEOs. This also will require creativity and a willingness to suspend boundaries. The goal should be for the CEO to look to marketing for the development of growth platforms, whether from developing and leveraging brand assets or finding new markets.

"**Building strong customer relationships**. Third, CMOs will find ways to truly connect to the customer by building relationship-based loyalty going beyond product-centered and product-driven approaches. A strong relationship can have a variety of sources, such as organizational associations (e.g., innovation, the environment, customer concern or high standards), the delivery of emotional benefits or creation of active customer dialogues.

"**Creating synergy**. Fourth, the brand will be managed across the product and geographic silos in order to allocate marketing investment optimally, drive brand consistency, leverage cross-market insights and data, and create synergy by leveraging effective programs. The route will usually be to create, expand or energize central marketing departments, without which the firm, at best, will be under a severe competitive disadvantage.

"**Detecting trends and ensuring relevance**. Finally, these CMOs will ensure relevance. When competing in dynamic markets, the most strategic challenge is to make sure that the firm produces offerings that customers want to buy. The need is to detect and evaluate trends and develop responsive offerings supported by brand assets.

"In a growing number of businesses, marketing will have more of a strategic role. That means the marketing group must have the skills and talent to think strategically and the credibility to influence the CEO to think in terms of building branded assets rather than immediate sales. It's not an easy task, for sure."

If you have any questions for David Aaker or the rest of the Global Brand Forum (GBF) faculty made up of Jack Trout, Faith Popcorn and Martin Lindstrom, email at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net and we'll make sure to forward them. MarketingRx can also ask your questions when we meet them at the GBF in Singapore. For more info on the GBF visit www.globalbrandforum.org or for more info call 813-2732. God bless!

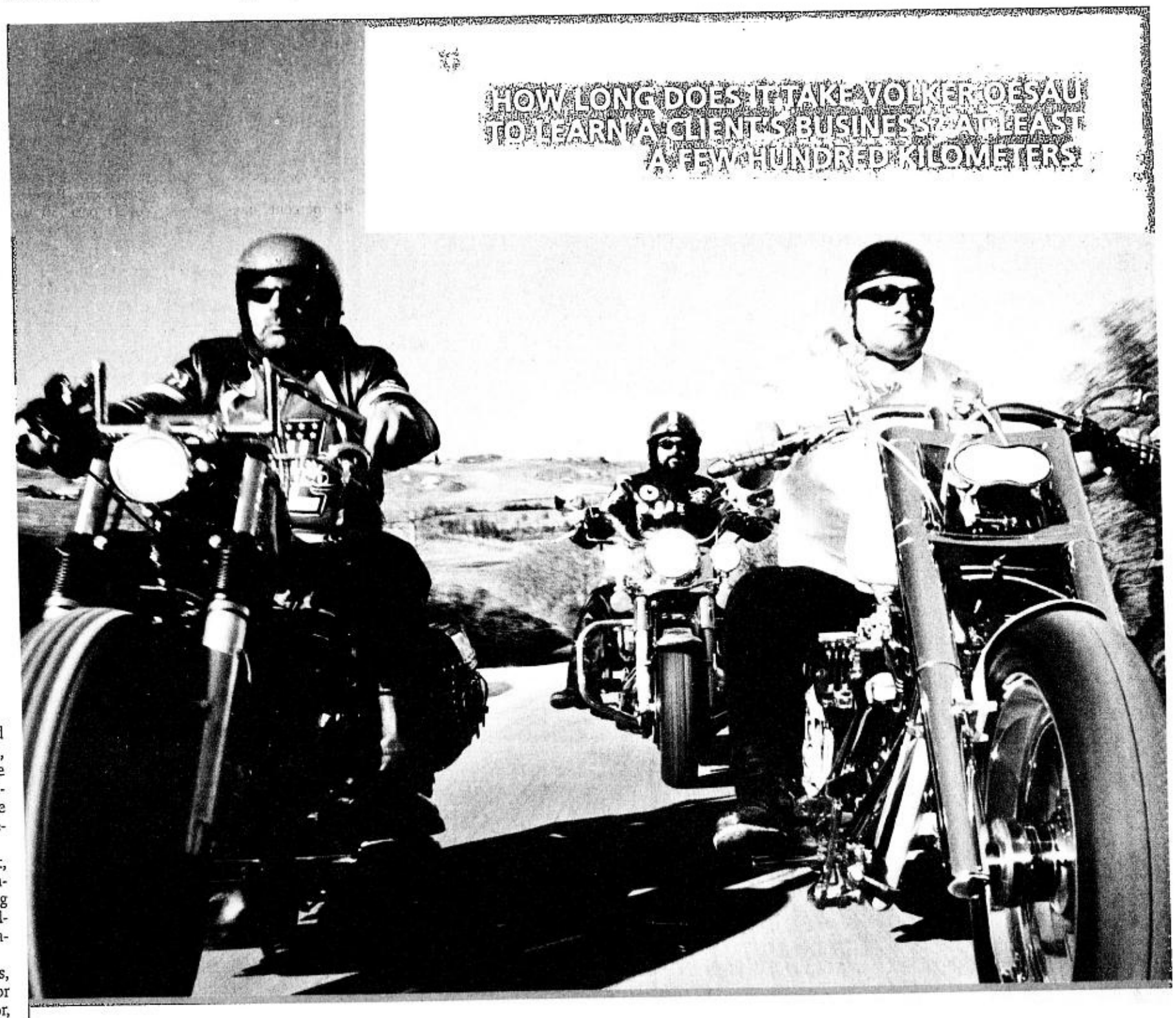
Strike a balance in dealing with customers ...

From page B2-2

employees to take time to read the Bible, to surrender their anxieties to the will of God.

For himself, he unwinds from day-to-day stresses by playing with his two kids, reading the Bible and sharing his learnings. A mobile phone, a laptop and a PDA are what he considers work necessities. He is a no frills, practical person and life for him is easier without excess baggage that hinders his objectives.

For several years now, Samsung's line of products are on display in all Solidmarks' stores. He has found out that is a highly competitive atmosphere, Samsung has held its own and has maintain its market share. As with other businesses, Samsung is besieged from all sides by challenges, but for the past five years a blend of aggressive marketing strategies, equitable profit, innovative designs and styling have kept competitors at bay.



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They Dared. We Conquered.

HYUNDAI DARES: THE CORDILLERA CHALLENGE

Drive your way™

GOING BEYOND THE PROMISE OF FUEL EFFICIENCY.

In the various test-drives conducted early this year, Hyundai has consistently proven its impressive kilometer per liter ratings such as the Accent's 38.07km/li*, the Getz's 19.19km/li* and the Matrix's 25.1km/li*. These value-per-kilometer feats attest to the fuel efficiency of the CRDi technology, a diesel engine breakthrough that powers the latest Hyundai line-up of passenger and commercial vehicles.

The next challenge was to demonstrate Hyundai's undeniable traits of power, torque, speed, versatility, maneuverability, handling and durability.

1451 KILOMETERS IN 4 GRUELING DAYS SPANNING EXTREMES IN ROAD CONDITIONS.

From flat roads to the rugged, winding, uphill and downhill terrains, The Getz, Matrix, Starex, Tucson and the Accent were proven resilient, responsive and sturdy under pressure.

Coming from the backbreaking and demanding test run, Hyundai vehicle handlers and passengers had these to say of their overall driving and riding experience:

"Amazing power and thrift in a compact package".

Vince Pornelos of C! Magazine on the Hyundai Getz CRDi

"I can't imagine that such a great thing would come in a small package. I think it can be best summed up (in relation to the movie)... You're living in a Matrix, but now you're driving in one".

Ronald Rey delos Reyes of AutoReview on Matrix CRDi

"Powerful acceleration especially when overtaking".

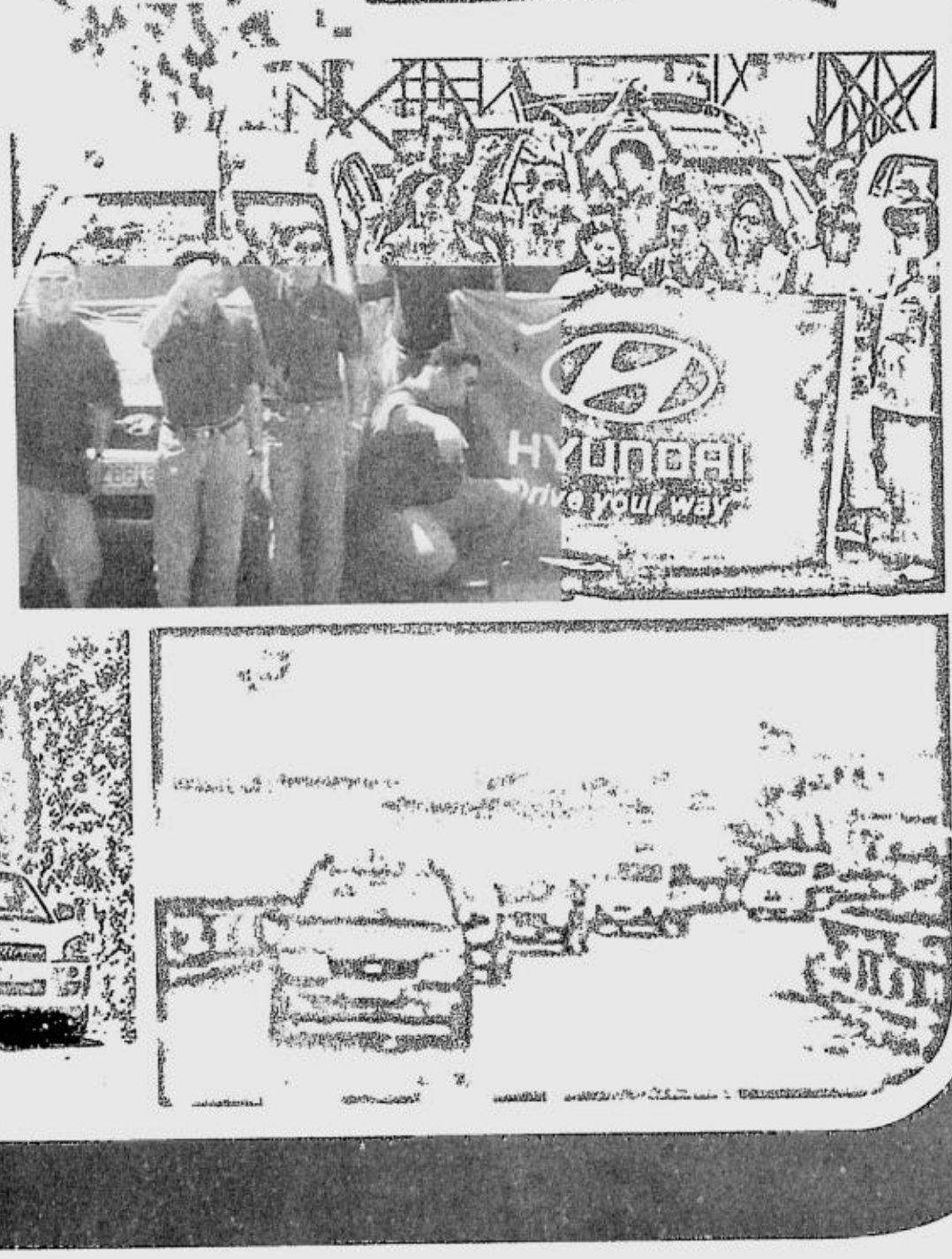
Art Guevarra of Phil-Am Savings Bank on Hyundai Accent CRDi

"Smooth ang drive and it's really made for long drives".

Bebot Reyes of Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) on Tucson 4WD CRDi

"A dream ride for all mankind".

Francis Chi of Aw2spec.com on Starex GRX CRDi



Globally, Hyundai has been recognized by the J.D. Power & Associates as the 3rd highest nameplate among automotive brands in its 2006 Initial Quality Study, a survey measuring customer satisfaction towards a particular product or service. In the same study, the compact SUV entry, the Hyundai Tucson, won the Highest Ranked Compact Multi-Activity Vehicle award.

* Reference on file.

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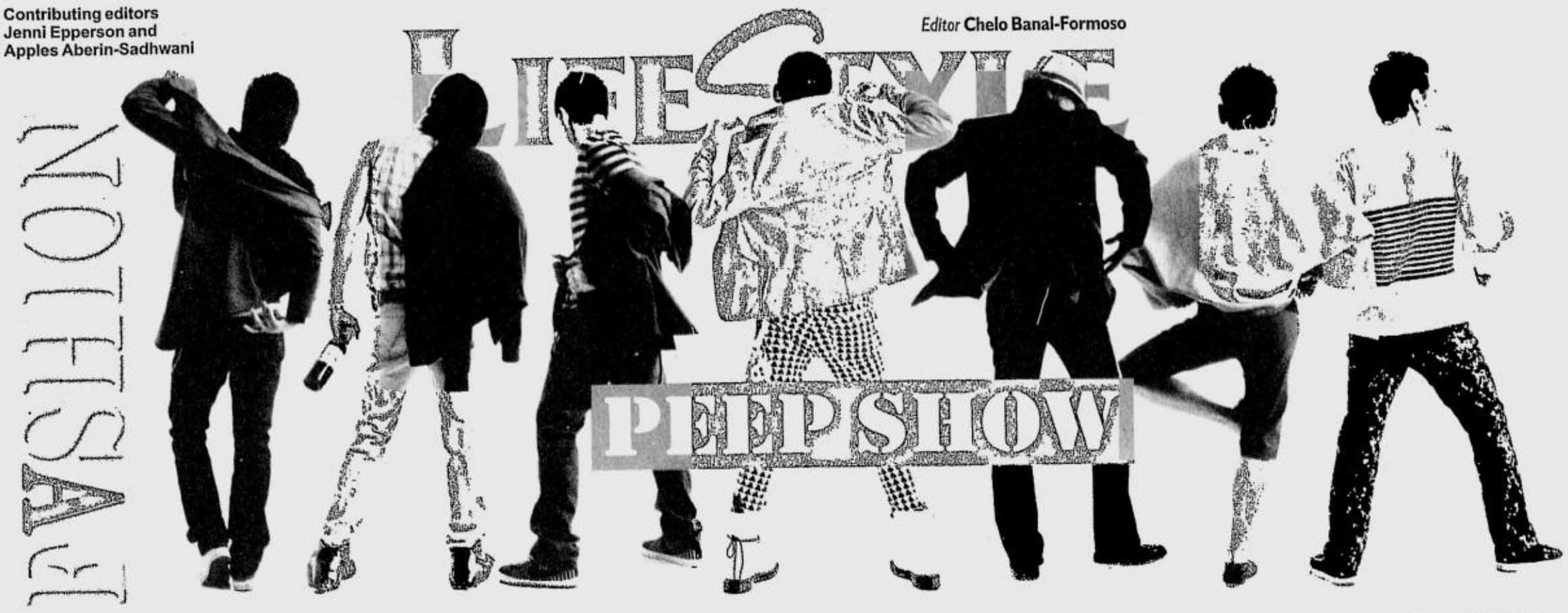

FASHION BUZZ

HAUTE, HOT NEWS!

Kate Moss designs for Topshop

FASHION icon Kate Moss is now a fashion designer, too! British brand Topshop has reportedly entered into a long-term agreement with the supermodel to help design and create a collection aptly called Kate Moss for Topshop. The collection will debut in the stores and the popular brand's website in spring 2007.

The deal is obviously another sign that Moss has overcome last year's scandal over her alleged cocaine use. After losing endorsements, the tenacious supermodel made a strong comeback this fall. She is featured in 14 fashion campaigns, including Louis Vuitton, Bulgari, Christian Dior Accessories, Versace and Calvin Klein, to name a few.

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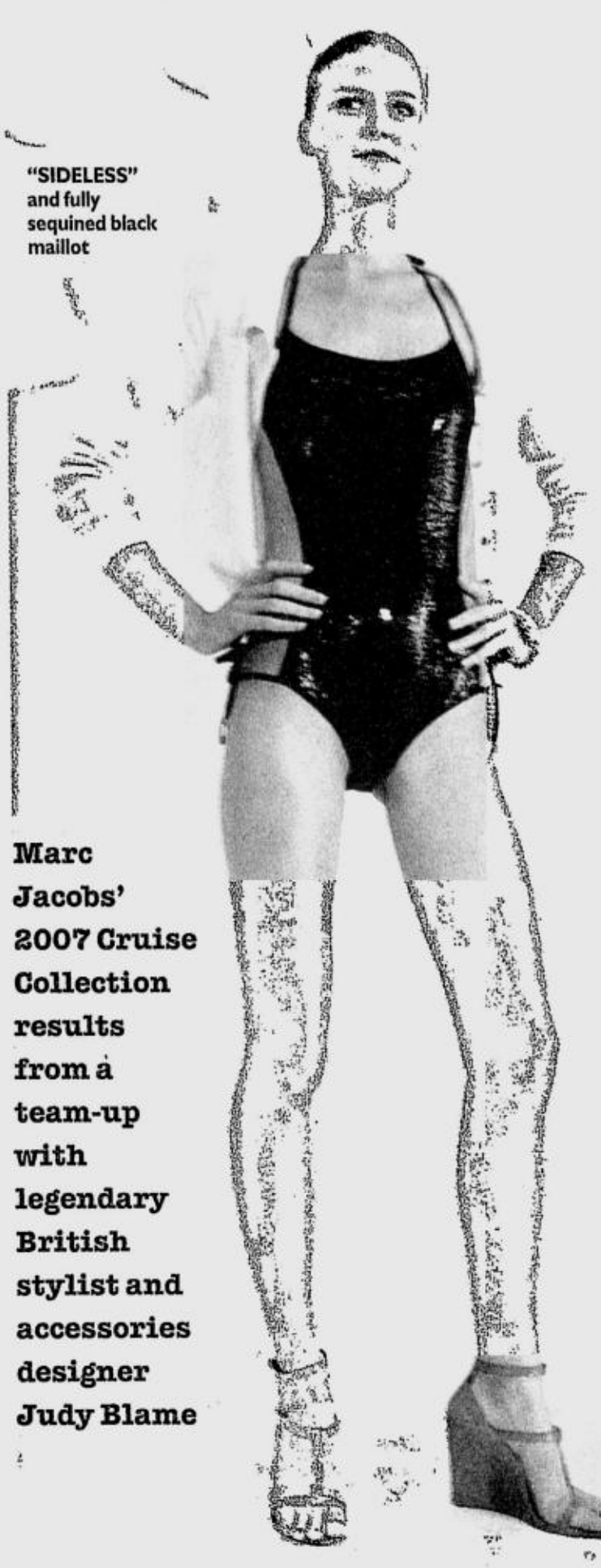


"SIDELESS" and fully sequined black maillot

HEATHER gray shirt with studded Monogram denim shorts

A 1950S-INSPIRED dress made of jersey and tafetta

SHORTS and pussycat bow

BEADED straps for details

Marc Jacobs' 2007 Cruise Collection results from a team-up with legendary British stylist and accessories designer Judy Blame

Masterful contrasts

Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

MARC JACOBS, THE PROlific artistic director of Louis Vuitton, has again displayed his mastery in playing with proportions and juxtaposing silhouettes and influences belonging to different eras, most notably from the 1950s and the 1960s.

The designer's trademarks were quite evident as the French luxury brand recently unveiled its 2007 Cruise collection in a media presentation in Macau, China.

For years since Jacobs came on board LV in 1997, the Cruise collection has acted as a bridge between somber winter months and the cheery spring season ahead, when the world's rich and famous start trooping to such upscale vacation haunts as St. Tropez, the French Riviera, Las Vegas and even Macau.

As such, Jacobs relied on a range of clean, crisp and solid colors such as beige, silvery gray, red and lime green in his new collection. The last two shades are holdovers from his current summer collection inspired by Elvis Presley and the American southwest.

Apart from dresses in such reliable colors as black and white, Jacobs also did a partially draped black-and-white checkered piece (perhaps the designer's take on Burberry) using silk jersey. Unlike last summer's more ornate pieces, his Cruise line came with minimal beadwork and accessories.

The occasion was also noteworthy for a number of firsts. For one, it marked the unveiling of LV's Azure line—the *mestiza* version, if you will, of its iconic Damier collection of to-die-for bags.

In lieu of brown, the Azure comes in cream and bluish gray checks. But bag hags have to wait until November to get their hands on these latest must-haves.

The presentation also coincided with the opening of LV's second store in Macau, a 200-sq-m affair designed by architect Peter Marino at the brand new Wynn Macau Resort on Avenida da Amizade.

For the first time, too, Jacobs collaborated with legendary British stylist and accessories designer Judy Blame. The collaboration, thus, brought some punch to an otherwise simple and wearable line.

Celebrated for his creations using paper clips, safety pins and string, Blame this time made use of LV's signature buttons, chains and charms to lend sleeveless tops, denim jackets and shorts with a one-of-a-kind couture feel.

His work (yes, Judy is a he) extends to several silvery key chains, which he fashioned into charm-like accessories dangling from several Monogram denim bags.

Noteworthy pieces

The 18-piece collection's more noteworthy pieces included a 1950s-inspired dress that combined casual jersey with more formal taffeta. Not only was it imbued with an American sportswear feel, the dress was also reminiscent of a prom outfit, thanks to its pleated and flowing skirt and loose, detachable jacket.

Instead of going for pink or lavender, Jacobs wisely opted for gray to temper the dress' silhouette and keep it age-appropriate for LV's more mature market.

In keeping with the collection's name, Jacobs also did a number of clingy dresses and separates inspired by the nautical look. In lieu of traditional shades such as red, white and blue, however, the designer limited his colors to black and white.

Again, Jacobs reworked the classic LV silhouette. For instance, his two-piece green number composed of a pencil skirt and fitted, short-sleeved top came with a hint of black beadwork that doubled as piping.

Jacobs also resurrected a look from the 1980s in the form of a "side-less" fully sequined black maillot that Alma Moreno and company would have favored. This time, however, he tempered the revealing sizzler by pairing it with a soft white jacket.

Shoe junkies have a dozen or so reasons to celebrate, as LV also unveiled a number of open-toed wedges made of rubberized plastic in such summer shades as yellow, fuchsia and aqua.

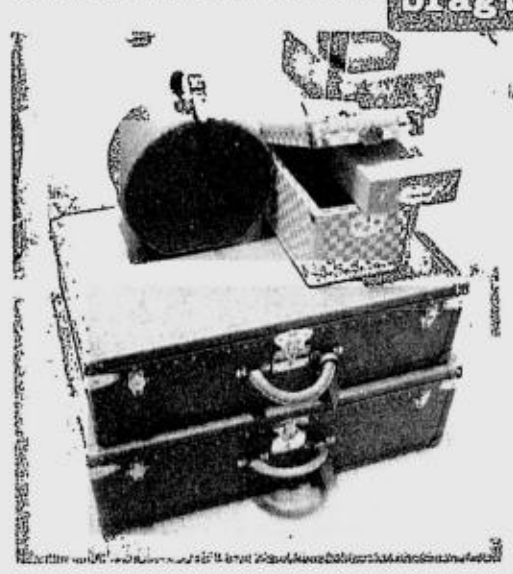
Jacobs also reinvented the platform shoes by turning to Japan. A particular pair was reminiscent of thick Japanese sandals sans the trademark straps.

In fact, a number of black shoes with thick ankle straps and rivets lent otherwise carefree and classic pieces with a rugged, punk feel. Again, Jacobs was only being true to his nature as a master of contrasts.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

DAMIER Azure

MONOGRAM denim with charm accessory



TRAVEL companions

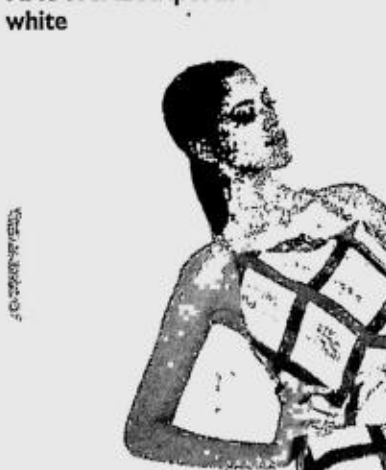
DAMIER Azure

NAUTICAL stripes in black and white

THREE-PIECE number made of black lace and gauze lining

SLEEVELESS check number

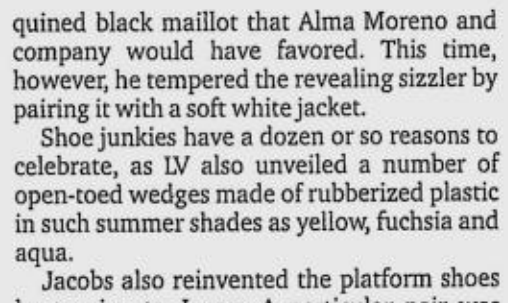
METALLIC buttons add shine.



CLASSIC LV look given fresh twist through beaded piping

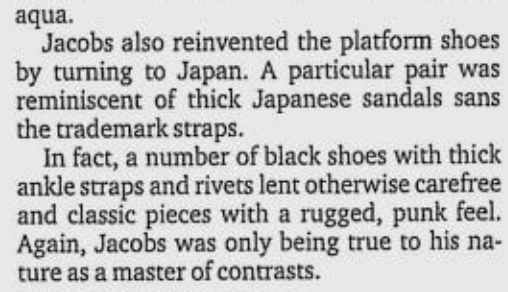
BLING on the shoulder

CURRY yellow wedges made of rubberized plastic

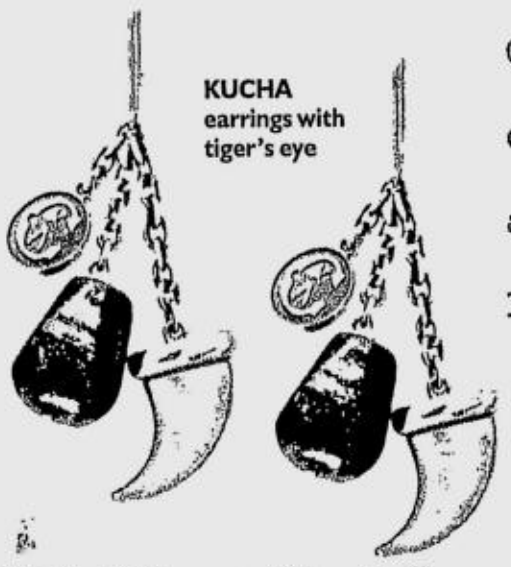


THICK platform soles reminiscent of Japanese sandals

COUTURE-LIKE slingbacks

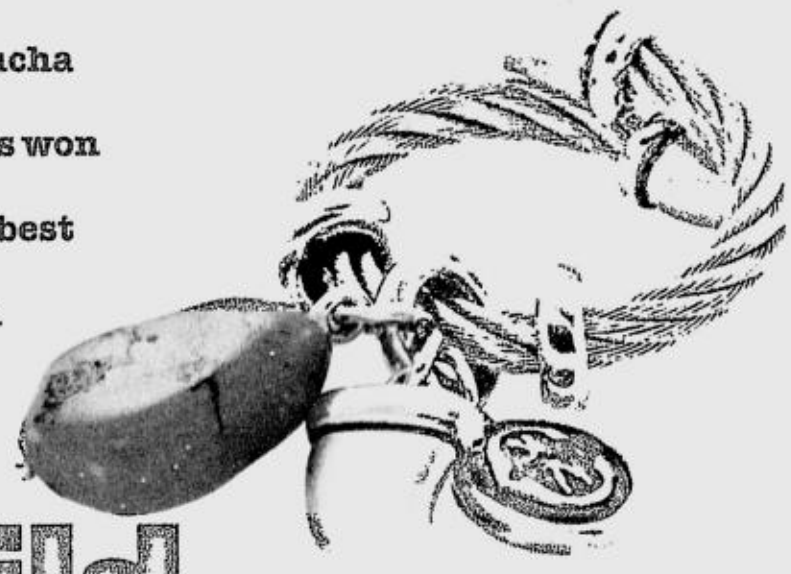


HIGH-END jelly shoes only from LV



KUCHA earrings with tiger's eye

Charriol's Kucha collection has won an award for best ladies' watch



KUCHA ring with turquoise

KUCHA square zebra watch without diamonds

Call of the Wild

CHARRIOL HAS ALWAYS been synonymous with classic elegance and simple, chic style. Its collections usually consist of streamlined and wearable watches and jewelry, such as the cable watch and the Celtic line, which are understated but still quite stylish.

Although quite a number of people are followers of the brand, I was never a fan... until now!

Enter Kucha, a collection of watches, bags and jewelry that's characterized by strong animal prints, rich textures and claw-like features, which are undeniably a departure, albeit a much-welcome one, from Charriol's usual look.

Kucha is the Swahili word for claws, and fittingly, the collection is inspired by the primitive African savannah where wild animals roam freely and exist purely on untamed instincts.

Of course, the latest collection is still as chic, elegant and effortlessly stylish as its predecessors. But this time around, it is also powerful, instinctive, feline and untamed. It is about a woman who sheds all inhibitions and who is not afraid to explore or use her femininity—or should I say claws?

The unique design concept of the Kucha watch garnered the "Watch of the Year 2005" award in the ladies watch category. And due to the line's tremendous success, Coralie Charriol, creative director and ambassadress of Charriol, expanded the collection by designing Kucha jewellery characterized by unique cable totems, trendy turquoise or exotic tiger's eye. Ms Charriol continued to strengthen the line by designing a bag collection that's available in leopard, zebra and black patterns.

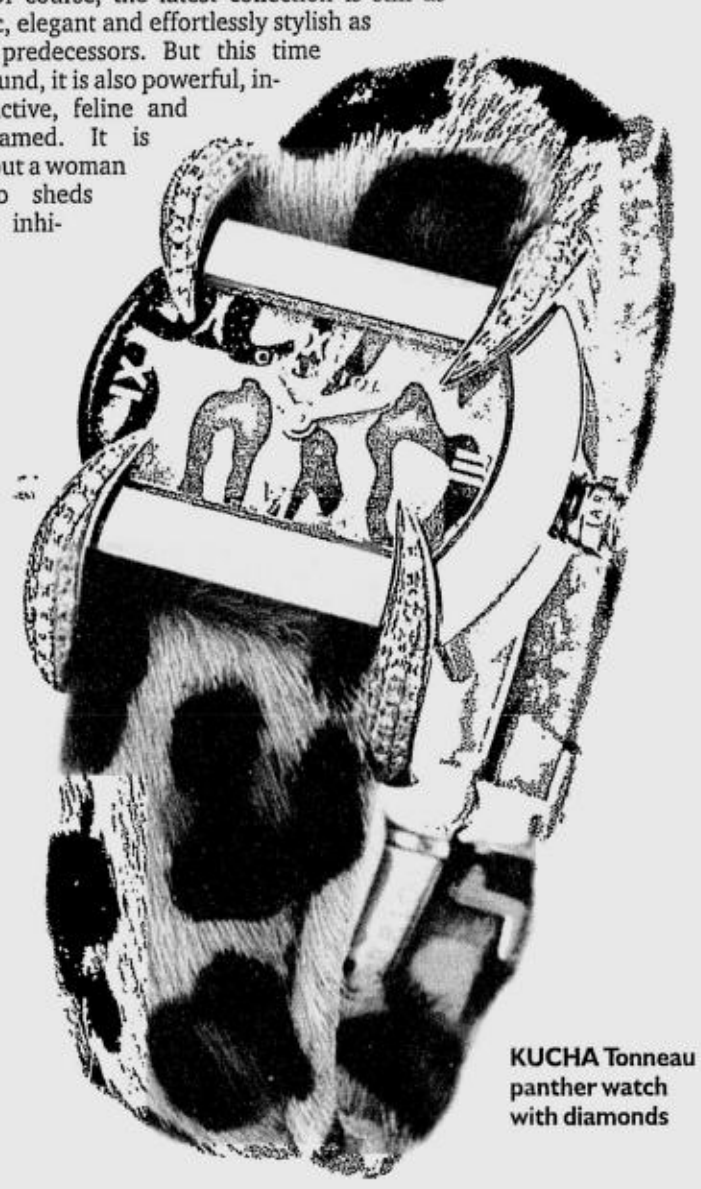
Untamed instincts mingle with the intoxicating, mysterious power of nature in Charriol's Kucha collection. It's time to unleash those claws and take a walk on the wild side.

The Kucha collection will be launched tonight by Stores Specialists Inc. in cooperation with Hotel Philippine Plaza.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani



KUCHA Tonneau panther watch with diamonds

KUCHA I hair calf broadtail zebra bag

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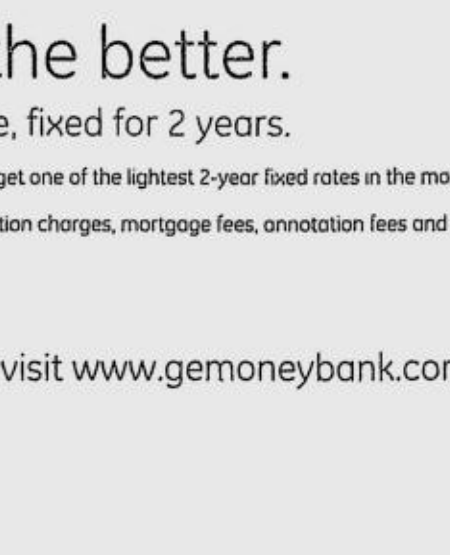
GORRO

The hampas-likod-tanggal-plema-Gorilla

"Straight from the wild and untamed jungles of Amazon. With just one slap from his powerful hand, hard sticky phlegm is 100% eliminated!"

OR



SPECIAL TAG-UBO PRICE

Hanggang Sept. 30, 2006 lang!

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SOLMUX

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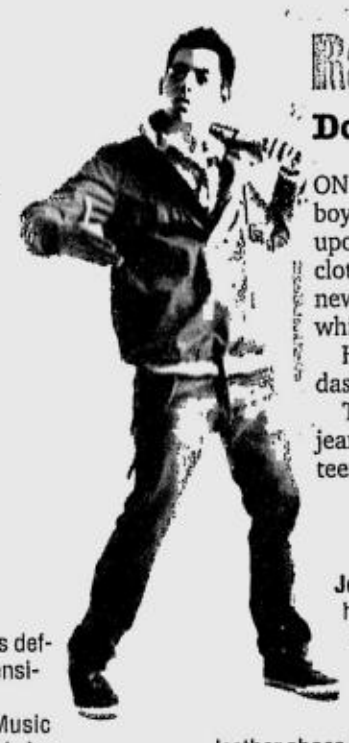


Raymond Gutierrez

Downtown debonair

ON THE SURFACE, RAYMOND LOOKS LIKE THE boy next door your mom will approve of you dating. But upon closer inspection, his skull accessories, Marc Jacobs clothes, hot kicks, cool-as-a-cucumber demeanor and his new five o'clock shadow give him a bad-boy appeal—which can put "Sexy Back" Justin Timberlake to shame.

His style is a combination of laid-back LA vibe and a dash of red-carpet regalia.

This hip-hop head turner adds a posh twist to frumpy jeans and oversized T-shirts with no diamond-studded teeth necessary.

Occupation: TV personality
Age: 22
Idiosyncrasy: Matching clothes on couples
Iconic emulations: Pharell, Marc Jacobs, Nigo of "A Bathing Ape"
Daily drapes: Shades, a nice watch and anything cotton... mostly hoodies or cardigans
Regal Robes: I'd rather not wear formal clothes, but if there's no escaping it, I usually go to Randy Ortiz.
Movie style guide: "Grease, "Blow" and most of the "Bond" films definitely had great style sensibilities."
Fashion theme song: Music in general is a major style influence for me. I like combining urban subcultures like hip-hop, punk and skate, and making it my own.
Tee time or polo play? I live in T-shirts. It's easier to handle, and a lot more versatile.
Jeans or trousers? Jeans. I hardly wear anything else.
Rubber steppers or leather skimmers? Sneakers are part of my daily uniform. I only wear leather shoes if I'm going to the office which is... never!
A string of chains or a band of blings? I like getting chains and accessories when I travel.
Stylin' headdress or slick tresses? I have a lot of headgear for those days when I'm too lazy to deal with my hair. Most of my hats are from Kangol or Goorin. I get my haircuts from Jing Monis.
Fashion source: Everywhere! Bench, Fred Segal and American Rag in LA, Two Percent in Hong Kong, Playground in Bangkok, Oxford Street in Sydney, and Soho in NYC.
Style is... a way to express one's individuality.
Or sometimes... shouldn't be taken so seriously.
But will never be... dull.

It's show time!

Manila's Stylish 7 get dressed up for INQUIRER Fashion. It's time the boys show us how to drop it like it's hot!

Photography Dix

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN seven of the most stylish men get together in one fabulous shoot? It's battle regalia to the hilt!

These men represent a new breed of style—they're fashion-forward, sexy and aggressive! Their look may appear strategic, but when you get to know them, like I have, you'll find out that their style is really an extension of their personality and a creative expression of their individuality.

They are the guys who exude coolness, creativity and a lot of *cajones* because the pieces they wear are not typically seen on men. They are healthy (they eat well and go to the gym regularly) and disciplined in evolving their style. They also shop to the max and love every minute of it.

On a late afternoon, the seven entered the studio with armloads of clothes, cool coats on multiple hangers, killer kicks and accessories that would put Marcella's to shame. It was like a best-dressed shoot for women; it was the same mountain of clothes without the chitchat.

I have to say that, to date, it was the most fun, quick and painless shoot I've ever done. (Since it was a testosterone treat plus a fashion flash, how could it not be enjoyable?) Almost everyone arrived on time (yes, even Tim) and all of them strutted their stuff before the camera with a lot of confidence and without the diva attitude.

Watching the shoot was like watching a fight scene in an action movie, but this time the battle was the fashion arena. I should know, I grew up watching kung-fu films. The shoot covered the action genre—from the "Shaolin" showdowns to the Jackie Chan classics and the "Matrix" movies. The shoot tried to copy the choreography of the fights, the sound of the clashing blades, and the testosterone treat one got from watching the classic fight scenes of "Enter the Dragon," "Seven Samurai," "The Drunken Master," "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace," "Fist of Legend," "Gladiator," "Troy," "The Princess Bride" and "Fight Club."

I realized how awesome the men were. They had great physique and dramatic facial expressions (insert Bruce Lee... Hoowaaa!) Yes, these men meant serious business, ironically even while wearing flamboyant costumes. Theirs were the yin and yang of style—fabulous!

I adore surfers, military men and kung-fu masters. They are fearless individuals. They are also effortlessly stylish.

The first time I met my photographer/surfer hubby Tom, it was not his loving personality that first captured my heart but his cool Levi's 501's, blue rolled-up sleeves and beat-up sneaks. He looked so cool, and after being married to him for 10 years, I now know that he has a way cooler attitude than his clothes.

I have to give it to guys who really have a standout style. Unlike women who have more fashion choices, men have limited options, and for them to come up with a look that is truly their own makes them admirable.

Mabuhay to the fearless fashion purveyors!

Enjoy the eye candies and watch out for the next batch!

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

Jenni Epperson

Robby Carmona

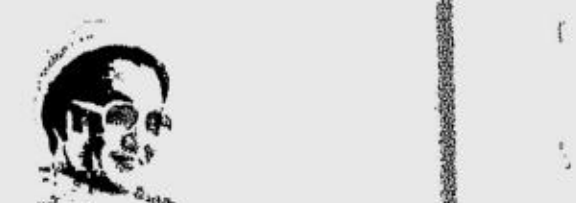
Runway royalty

"DIREK", AS HE'S FONDLY CALLED IN THE INDUSTRY, can still rival the hottest runway newbie when it comes to sashaying on the runway.

A great supporter of young designers, he gets first dibs on their collections before they even hit the stage.

Robby's couture craze is apparent in the way he dresses up. But there is always an Asian flavor to his get-up. Whether he's in a pair of Shaolin shoes, a Puey *pañuelo* or a *cumbachero* shirt, he struts with his signature model gait.

Occupation: Fashion show director
Idiosyncrasy: My thousands of CDs are properly numbered and arranged according to genre.
Iconic emulations: My father.
Daily drapes: It really depends on my mood that day.
Substitute suit: Jackets from Joey Samson or a *pañuelo* from Puey Quiñones
Regal robes: Randy Ortiz suits, Dior Homme
Movie style guide: The much-talked about movie, "The Devil Wears Prada"
Fashion theme song: "Fashionista" by Jimmy James
Tee time or polo play: Tee time. I love mix-matching my tees with practically anything. You can match it with a jacket or just put a scarf and it certainly gives you a different look already.
Jeans or trousers? Jeans. I love my skinny Viktor jeans. It conforms to my body structure, making me look taller and leaner.
Rubber steppers or leather skimmers? I collect rubber steppers. I find my ways to look for hard-to-find sneakers and rubber shoes during my travels.
A string of chains or band of blings? String of chains
Stylin' headdress or slick tresses. I'm also known for my stylish cut. I go to Nelson Cruz of Essensuals, Toni & Guy, and Jing Monis of Propaganda. No one else can touch my hair.
Fashion source: I am a purveyor of Filipino designers. I inspire them to create pieces that suit my personality.
Style is... instinctive and quite personal, and much like class, money can't buy it.
Or sometimes can be... inspired by what you see or read.
But will never be... a copy cat.



Norman Crisologo

Havana hottie

If RAINBOW BRIGHT HAD A DAD, IT COULD VERY well be Norman. His ability to combine colors crosses over from his canvas to his clothes. He is one of the art scenes' movers and shakers and is also a hip businessman married to an equally hip and hot momma, Astrud.

He has an old-school charm, but not the one that harks back to the golden years of Hollywood—really more like Sampaguita Pictures.

Norman is the modern-day "Tony Falcon." His style always shakes the scene, *pero walang stir, pare*!

Occupation: Mid-life crisis
Age: Mid-life
Idiosyncrasy: I seem to think that I'm thinner, younger and more sensible than I really am. Hmm...
Iconic emulations: Me back in the '80s, those "schizo" bicycle shorts worn with my Paolo Basa blazer truly changed my life.
Daily drapes: Sneaks, skinny pants, call-boy shades and panty-print Divisoria shirts
Substitute suit: It's hard to imagine going through life without ever wearing a suit by Joey Samson or Puey Quinones. Discount, please?
Regal robes: I've always dreamed of owning one of those vintage provincial barong Tagalogs with the *bahay-kubo* embroidery on them, but I could never find one my size.
Movie style guide: Rogelio de la Rosa in the '50s; Agent Tony Falcon, Max Alvarado and Victor Wood in the '60s; George Estregan in the '70s; entire cast and crew of "Bagets" in the '80s
Fashion theme song: "Ang Boyfriend Kong Baduy," by the Hotdogs.
Fashion for function or functions to fashion? "Fashion to a certain extent, a little bit of pain never hurt anyone. Hmm..."
Tee time or polo play? All of the above.
Why? Basta!
Jeans or trousers? Skinny jeans please!
Why? 'Cause I have skinny legs.
Rubber steppers or leather skimmers? Leather uppers in snake and croc, with rubber soles
Why? So I get the best of both worlds.
A string of chains or a band of blings? None of the above.
Why? I'm heavy enough as I am.
Stylin' headdress or slick tresses? Hats are fun and practical.
Fashion source: Topman for basics, Rue la div for *pagawa*, Paul and Hedi for a splurge, *ukay* for a steal.
Style is... Define love?
Or sometimes... What is the meaning of life?
But will never be... Ano ba talaga si Grimus?

Occupation: Tim Yap
Age: Younger than Borgy.
Idiosyncrasy: Style schizophrenia
Iconic emulations: Space invaders, Buzz Lightyear, Transformers and Chiquito.
Daily drapes: Victor Jeans, ODM watches, white sneaks, Zirh skin care and Higher Dior Eau de Toilette
Substitute suit: Fake layering, Nike and Fila tracksuit, Greyhound cropped jackets
Regal robes: Rajo Laurel, Puey Quinones, Joey Samson, Ivar Aseron, vintage Paolo Raymundo
Movie style guide: Animation. "Ocean's Eleven" meets "Bagets" 2017
Fashion theme song: "Dontcha," Gary V. and Sharon Cuneta remix
Fashion for function or functions to fashion? The more F's, the better! F-F-Fun!
Tee time or polo play? The more tees... the better! Tee, tee, tee time!
Jeans or trousers? Both.
I like having the best of both worlds.
Rubber steppers or leather skimmers?
I'm partial to clean white sneaks. It's just like white undies, it's my fetish.
A string of chains or a band of blings?
"Bling"—it's the title of my MTV show. Bling it on!
A stylin' headdress or slick stresses?
I leave that up to Henri Calayag of H Salon. When he says "Cut," so cut.
Fashion source: House of Laurel, Homme et Femme, YDG, Chatuchak, Bangkok Market, Dior Homme, Louis Vuitton, Zara, Kabuki in Paris, Heeren in Singapore, Island Beverly in Hong Kong.
Style is... power, a tool for change, a means to inspire, provoke fantasy and push reality.
Or sometimes can... be too fickle.
But will never be... not worth it.

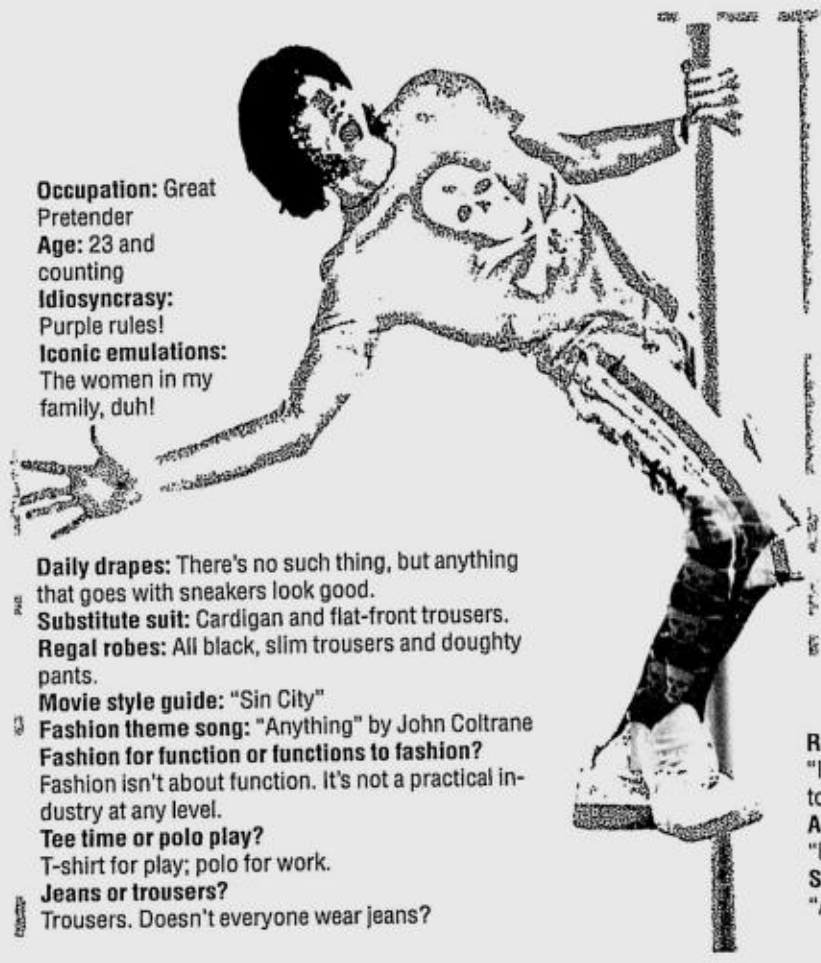
Tim Yap

Pop superstar

THE "SUPER" BOY'S IMAGINATIVE and playful take on clothes has revolutionized Filipino men's fashion.

During the time when most men wore Giordano jeans and Ralph Lauren shirts, Tim wore "Pikachu" and "Dragon Ball Z" get-ups. In fact, no matter what costume or couture he wears, people always refer to his style as animé. He has spawned trends such as stuff toys pinned on shirts, toys worn as necklaces, costume couture, funky jackets, blonde hairdo—all of which club dwellers, scene-stealers and show-biz showmen now sport.

He can wear the most hideous acid-wash jeans and make them look cute. He's an effective label endorser. What he wears, kids, guys and girls want to wear, too, because he puts fun in function and flash in fashion. Tim is his generation's style icon.



Occupation: Great Pretender
Age: 23 and counting
Idiosyncrasy: Purple rules!
Iconic emulations: The women in my family, duh!
Daily drapes: There's no such thing, but anything that goes with sneakers look good.
Substitute suit: Cardigan and flat-front trousers.
Regal robes: All black, slim trousers and doughty pants.
Movie style guide: "Sin City"
Fashion theme song: "Anything" by John Coltrane
Fashion for function or functions to fashion? Fashion isn't about function. It's not a practical industry at any level.
Tee time or polo play? T-shirt for play; polo for work.
Jeans or trousers? Trousers. Doesn't everyone wear jeans?

Borgy Manotoc

Urban mix master

NOT A LOT OF GUYS CAN PULL OFF wearing wrinkled clothes (and I don't mean Issey Miyake's collection). In fact, I can't think of anyone who can pull that off except for Borgy.

His devil-may-care style and effortless ways are reflected in a fashion that piles on pieces bought from second-hand stores. He also wears high-street buys, foreign and local designer duds. The pieces may make others look like hobos in distress. But not "B"—he looks more like a member of the Billionaire Boys Club.

Blessed with long limbs, narrow hips (a model's trait) and gorgeous genes, he can wear a potato sack and still carry it off as if he's wearing something from Saks.

Rubber steppers or leather skimmers? "I don't wear slippers; I have really hideous toes."
A string of chains or a band of blings? "Both, accessorizing is character."
Stylin' headdress or slick stresses? "Au natural. I need manageable and low-maintenance hair, no time!"
Fashion source: "Book, magazines and the Internet."
Style is... "a guilty pleasure."
Or sometimes can... "be over-analyzed, it's really about feel and instinct, not rules."
But will never be... "fashionable."

Occupation: Visual artist/DJ/musician/traveler
Age: 26
Idiosyncracy: I can't start and end the day without music! I love the scent of new cars and the smell of fresh new sneakers! I always dash a bit of black pepper and Tabasco on most of my meals! I like Japanese street fashion and vintage clothing. I don't follow trends.
Iconic emulations: I don't look up to any fashion icon in particular. I just like people whose style reflects their personality; people who don't follow mass fashion. Nerds are my style idols. Unconditional forms, interesting patterns, playfulness and a bit of punk inspire me.
Daily drapes: Plain V-neck or printed shirt with light jacket at night, slim jeans and sneaks
Substitute suit: Sometimes I'd throw on a crumpled, worn-out long sleeve and pair it with good slim-fitting jeans.
Regal robes: A nice slim blazer with a vintage skinny tie and second-hand trousers or a crisp long-sleeved shirt with formal pants and a vintage military jacket.
Movie style guide: "A Clockwork Orange" meets "Edward Scissorhands" in "Fight Club"
Fashion theme song: 80s heavy metal and punk rock inspire me at the moment. Bloc Party rules!
Tee time or polo play? I'm more of a tee guy. But once in a while, I like wearing collared shirts or open-buttoned polos with a tank or tee underneath.
Jeans or trousers? Jeans forever.

Robby Manangquil

Street fighter

THE EPITOME OF PINOY STREET STYLE, ROB IS A keen observer and a world traveler. His style is Pinoy panache with a global glitz.

One of my favorite looks on him is his mix of "*magsasaka*" t-shirts, *tsinelas* and linen pants, accessorized with a Havana hat, leather bracelets and vintage shades from Quiapo. A model's swagger completes the look.

But more than being a cover-model cutie, he has a down-to-earth appeal, which makes him more lovable to the fashion industry.

Being an artist (he's an awesome painter, too), his attention to details is uncanny. If he ever decides to change career, I believe he can become a good fashion stylist for men.

Rubber steppers or leather skimmers ? Nothing beats the cushioning of sneakers! I used to rock leather more often but as I grew older, comfort and practicality became the wiser choice.
Fashion source: New York and Tokyo are the best cities for shopping. My faves are H&M in Paris; the flea market at 23rd Street, New York; Chatuchak Market in Bangkok; and discount stores in Japan.
Style is... always diverse and experimental.
Or sometimes... an astonishing combination of the ugliest clothes ever.
But it will never be . . . envy.

Ian King

Sizzling dapper

ALWAYS DRAPED IN DAPPER ITEMS—fedora hats, black-and-white combo with a twist of Michael Jackson moves, Ian can take his top off, get barefoot, sport a bedraggled hair, just wear jeans and still look cool.

This motel scion exudes sex appeal beyond his svelte body and awesome accoutrements; he is also a serious businessman and is such a sweetie to supermodel/VJ girlfriend, Joey Mead.

Occupation: Victoria Court managing director
Idiosyncrasy: Adidas, dress to impress, dress according to who you're meeting
Iconic emulations: Justin Timberlake in his videos and Neo of "The Matrix"
Daily drapes: It depends on what I'm doing.
Substitute suit: Board shorts and slippers or sarong.
Regal robes: Tailored suit with fedora hat
Movie style guide: "The Matrix," "Bad Boys"
Fashion theme song: None
Tee time or polo play: Both, I like to have variants.
Jeans or trousers? Depends on who I'm meeting or where I'm going.
Rubber steppers or leather skimmers? Havaianas, they're rubber steppers for Manila.
Stylin' headdress or slick tresses? Depends on who I'm meeting or where I'm going.
Fashion source: Topman, tailors, A/X, Zara, any brand as long as it looks great.
Style is... reflective of a person's mood and how he feels that day.
Or sometimes can be... a statement.
But will never be... boring.

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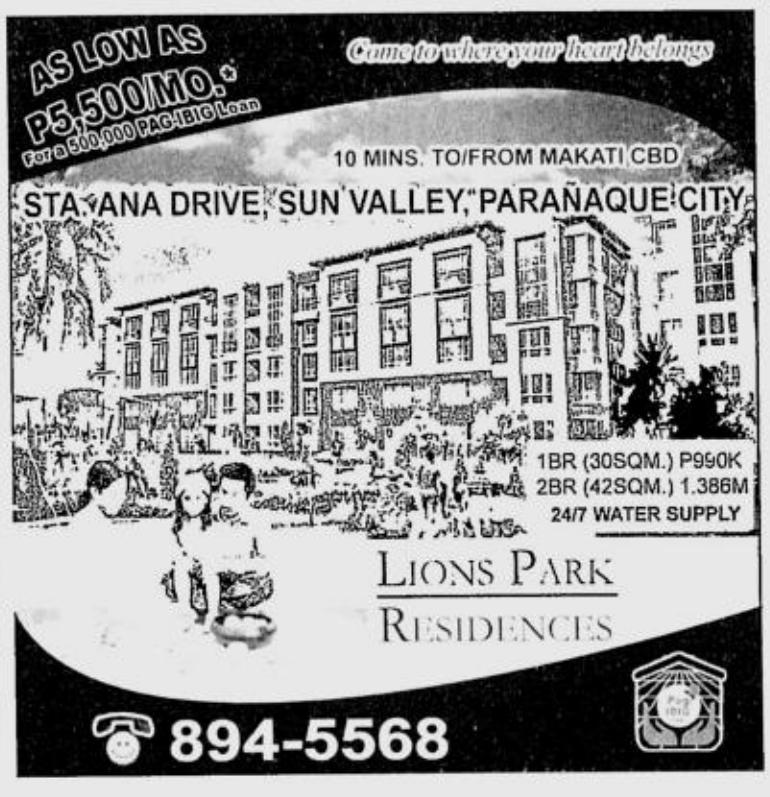
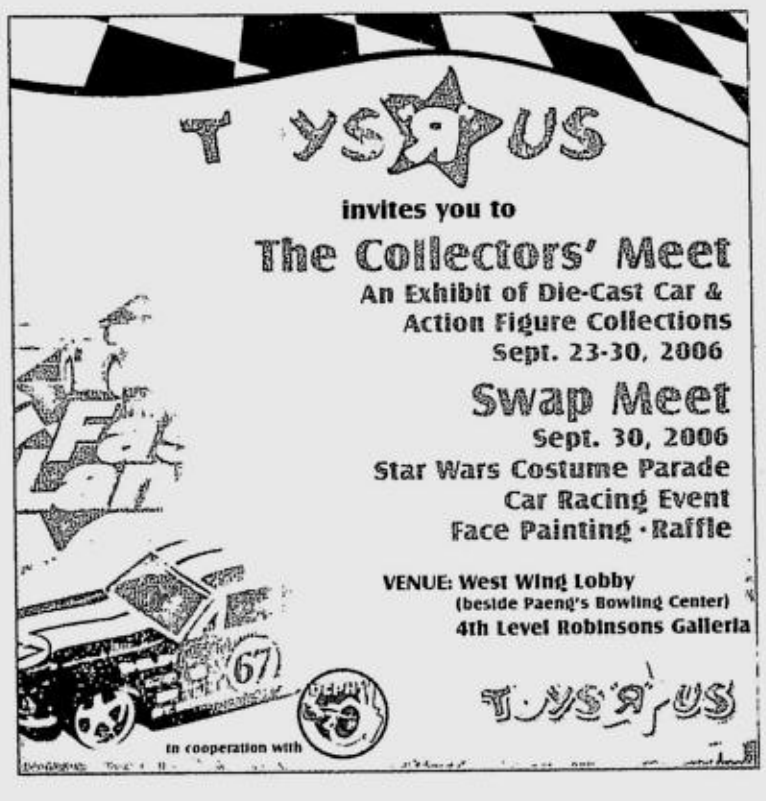
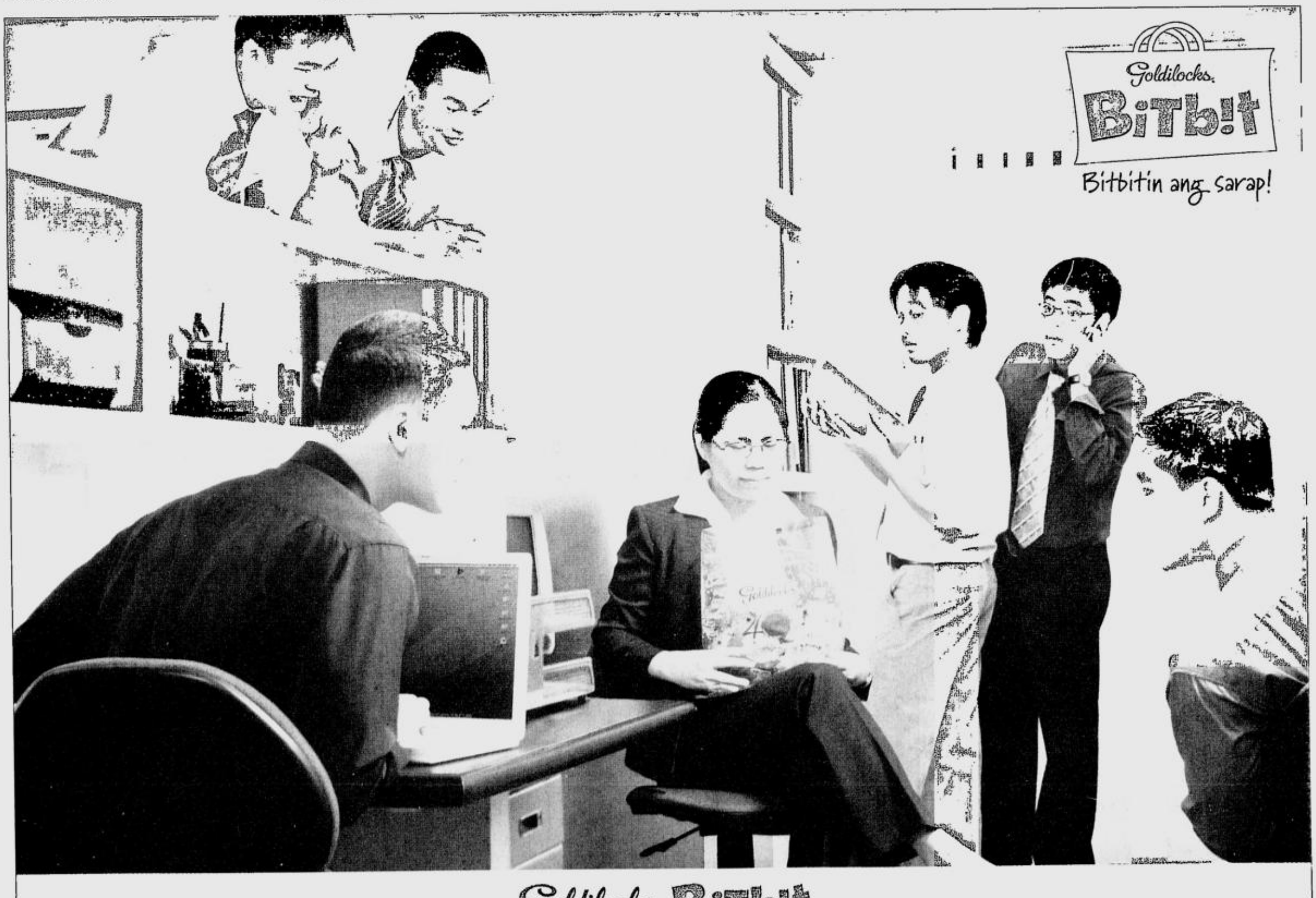
BEAUTY

What's your beauty arsenal?

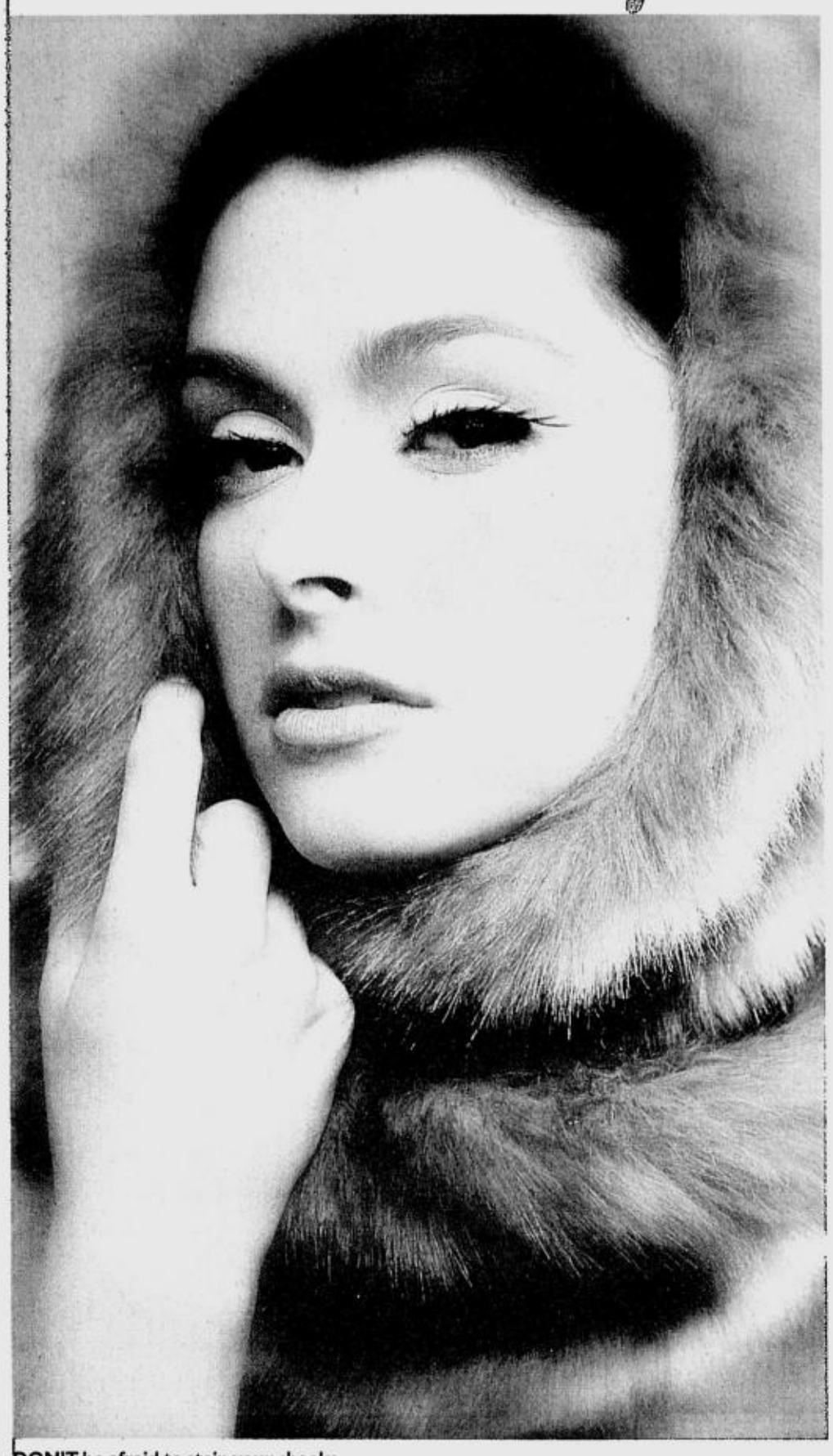
Photos Pat Dy using Canon 400D
Makeup Barbie Chan for Maybelline New York
Model Daiana of Ideal People
Styling Donna Cuna-Pita







What's your beauty arsenal?



DON'T be afraid to stain your cheeks.

Add a little oomph to your best feature

Ria Francisco-Prieto

MAKEUP IS ALL ABOUT COLOR. And adding color to your face is all about getting noticed. That may be an overstatement, but getting noticed may also be as simple as knowing what you need and addressing it.

I know I am one person who cannot live without blush. I have to brush on some blush just so I wont look so pale. Nothing fussy: just some tint on my cheek, and my world seems better and brighter.

Come to think of it, makeup assures me that I can face the world with more confidence. I really do need it or else I will look like I haven't gone under the sun in years.

We girls all have our own beauty "must-do's" and "beauty arsenal." There's a difference between the two. I consider it a must-do to put on some blush; it is something that must be done since I know what I need in order to look good. But if it is actually something more urgent, like a problem that needs to be addressed, then I have recourse to my beauty arsenal.

A beauty arsenal is something extra; it is a thing that you resort to in order to boost your looks and make you extra-beautiful. It is actually discovering that one thing that enhances your total looks.

For Lindsay Lohan, for example, the extra-boost comes in the form of fake lashes. I read somewhere that false eyelashes make her feel sexy, so that in pictorials, no matter how much makeup she has, she will still insist on fake lashes. Her look wouldn't seem complete without the lashes.

It is easy to find your beauty "must-do," but determining your "beauty arsenal" can be a little bit more tricky.

The easiest way to find it is by knowing your asset and giving it that extra oomph. If you have beautiful eyes, then your beauty arsenal may be as simple as lining your eyes.

Great cheekbones? Then add an extra boost of color... your cheeks deserve that.

Celebrate those luscious lips by coloring them with heavy shades of crimson.

Treat yourself

Expanding your "kikay kit" doesn't always have to mean having to sacrifice your savings. It doesn't have to be that painful.

Among my fave brands for blush are Fashion 21 and San-San. Both brands are inexpensive and have a wide range of products and colors to choose from.

Sometimes when I have to get something at Glorietta I find myself walking toward Landmark to buy something from Fashion 21. I love its Single Blush-On because of its wonderful selection of colors, which stay on and last long. I don't have to reapply those colors which I don't find enjoyable.

I was also pleasantly surprised that Fashion 21's Perfect Stick foundation, concealer, and U/V White protection provide great coverage and are very easy to use.

San-San, which is found at HBC outlets, also has a very good range. At the moment I am enjoying its Body Bronzers that come in a fat stick with a brush on the tip. Their eye-shadow duo also comes in exciting colors that would be great to have if you are the type who uses different colors or if you simply want to change your look.

DRAW more attention to your eyes by using false lashes.

Complexion analyzer

Belo Clinic now has a machine that determines the state of your skin and the treatments needed to repair it and slow down aging

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

THERE IS NOW A SUREFIRE way of detecting if your skincare products and regimen are working for you. Some may be shocked to learn that they have been obsessively treating the wrong skin concern, which only compounds the decline of the skin's overall quality.

Dr. Vicki Belo called me up recently to try her new machine, the Visia Complexion Analyzer, which is now a part of her clinic's way of monitoring a client's progress. How this works is that you stick your makeup-free, just-cleansed face into what looks like a tiny white cave and the machine takes your photo.

As your face shows up on the attached monitor, the machine will pick out the 12-point area wherein age and skin damage first take their toll, which then will be analyzed by the computer. The analysis will be printed out.

Your doctor can then recommend the skincare products and treatments available in the clinic that will benefit you. I would request a printout of this so you can study the recommended treatments at home and online.

Six factors are measured. The first four are shown in color: Spots, Pores, Wrinkles and Texture, in which the scoring is based on percentile, which means the higher the percentage that registers the better.

You are then compared to other people in your age range with the same skin color and you will see how you fare. The graph will show the normal range in your group highlighted in blue; a gray line marks the median average right in the middle of that range.

The next two photos are black and white, which measures porphyrins (bacteria that clog pores) and UV spots. In these photos, the lower the number the better.

I expressed some disappointment because the machine could not measure skin firmness since, in my observation, that is where most Asians first show signs of aging.

My results: In my age range of 30-40 years old, I got one of, if not the best, results, according to the machine: Spots 89 percent, Pores 91 percent, Wrinkles 99 percent and Texture 85 percent.

My dots on the graph were even outside and below the normal range. In the black and white portion where a lower number means better: My porphyrins 37 (it can go as high as 500) and UV spots 70 (it can go as high as 1,500).

The machine also has a feature in which your skin is projected to age about 10-15 years more in order for you to determine how how you will look later on. Flaws are magnified and skin texture made rougher.

My results were not bad.

Of course, the aging projection is not that accurate because it does not consider other unpredictable factors such as illness, medication, stress, emotional problems, lifestyle change, menopause, hormonal imbalance and skincare slacking-off.

How did I get such good results?

1. Good genes. 2. Intense skincare program, which consists of cleansing that removes dirt, oil, and makeup; pore minimizing and whitening toning; skin-brightening, anti-aging, and skin-firming serums; SPF 30 indoors and above (45-60) sunblock daily; and skin-firming and -brightening through a night cream or lotion before going to bed. (As I have said time and time again, Asians who are obsessed with getting lighter skin and go about it safely will age at a very slow rate.) 3. Not having much of a social and—fun—life, as my friends would say: I don't drink alcohol or smoke, I hardly go out to parties and clubs. 4. I take a lot of antioxidants and supplements for skin, hair, health and body. 5. All of my exercises are done indoors. If I do brisk-walk, I do it in the mall or outdoors after 4 p.m.

I cajoled and convinced Dr. Belo to let me publish her results as well. I have to say, her treatments must be working because her results were excellent:

Colored photos: Spots 92 percent, Pores 94 percent, Wrinkles 94 percent, Texture 81 percent.

Black-and-white photos: Porphyrins 272 and UV spots 109.

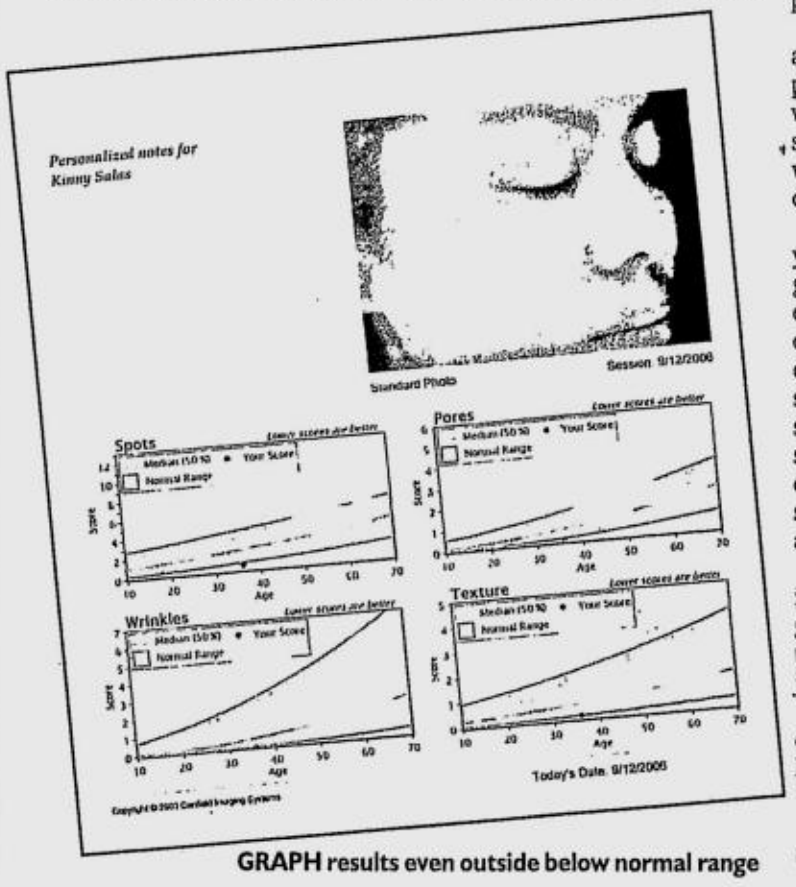
The other people present adamantly refused to have me publish theirs. Of course, these were the beach lovers, outdoor sports enthusiasts, and those with active nightlife in all the hip clubs and parties.

Now, I am not preaching that you follow my boring and programmed lifestyle if you really enjoy socializing and the great outdoors; just find a balance and compensate for your not-too-skin-friendly lifestyle by using sunblock with high SPF, taking skin supplements, and cutting down on some vices such as smoking, frequent late nights and alcohol.

Personally, my Visia Complexion Analyzer result is my one great consolation for declining those all-expenses-paid beach junkets in the past years.

For Visia Consultation inquiries or booking, call the Belo hotline at 8442939.

Any questions? E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com.



GRAPH results even outside below normal range

BEAUTY NEWS

Renewal is key to ageless beauty

SKIN VISIBLY AGES AT age 35.

With time, collagen and protein fibers that hold the skin together and make it firm and elastic, slowly and naturally begin to weaken, resulting in deep wrinkles, age spots and sagging skin.

Although women recognize the emotional and practical benefits of aging, the physical changes that come with it may undermine their newfound sense of self. To cope with these changes in her life, a woman keeps her age a secret.

The path to ageless beauty is renewal.

Pond's Age Solution Renewal Lift is especially designed for women who are 35 years old and above. The range intensively moisturizes skin and effectively reduces the visible signs of aging.

It works to make skin look firmer and younger by combining breakthrough and natural anti-aging ingredients such as micro-collagen, AHA, marine bio-polymers, Vitamin E and natural extracts that work from the inside.

Steps against aging

Cleanse. Pond's Skin Renewal Foam thoroughly cleanses skin without disrupting its water balance.

Tone. Pond's Renewal Firming Toner is an alcohol-free formula that provides extra cleansing, while preparing skin for the next step in nourishment and revitalization.

Moisturize. Pond's Collagenique Intensive Serum provides strength and structural support from within.

Special care. Pond's Lip Renewal & Lifting Lotion nourishes lips so they become moist and full.

Pond's Eye Renewal & Lifting Gel is a light non-greasy gel that repairs and nourishes the sensitive area around the eyes.

Pond's Age Solution Renewal Lift is available in leading department stores and personal care stores.

Cleanse with Pond's Skin Renewal Foam

cut & keep

How to use orange

It's the color for all seasons

Text and makeup by B..rbi Chan
Contributor

I MUST ADMIT THAT ORANGE, CITRUS, corals or any tangerine loud colors used to scare me. I dared not even try it on myself. When I became a makeup artist, I was still wary of using it. But how many times can you use browns, pinks, greens anyway?

So I took a deep breath, rummaged through my tons of eyeshadows and brought out all the oranges and corals I had kept hidden for so long.

The verdict? I love them! Now i can't stop using them.

I realized that orange is a color for all seasons. A bright and shimmery coral is good for summer while a deep golden orange is ok for formal and glamorous events.

Orange and corals look good against the skin. But choose hues that work with your skin tone. Darker skin can take deep, saturated corals on the cheeks or lips, but pale skin needs a sheer shade that gives just a hint of color.

Translucent orange can be worked in layers over bare skin to create a luminous glow while rich shades can be combined with golds for an intense feel.

Experiment with orange eyes or cheeks or lips but do not match up the whole look. A coral blush brushed on the apple of the cheeks will liven up the face.

1. Start blending a little of your foundation over the eye area to provide an even base for the color. I recently discovered mineral makeup and I am quite impressed with the consistency and coverage of the product. Try Youngbloods' Loose Foundation. It's very easy to use. Just dab the powder where needed. Very light on the skin but it gives full coverage. No need to apply setting powder after.

2. If you are using an eyeliner apply it now before your eye color. Use brown pencil or charcoal liner along the top edges of the eyes only.

3. Dab a tiny amount of the coral eyeshadow onto your finger and slick it into the eyelids and into the crease. Avoid going all the way to the brow bone. Maybelline's Color Wear trio in Pop Art has the perfect combination of orange and corals. You can dab a gold highlighter on the center of the lid and brow bone to add drama.

4. Now add a couple of coats of mascara on the upper lash only to open up the eyes.

5. Dab a clear gloss on the lips. Wearing such a strong color requires you to tone down the overall look of the face.

E-mail the author at bc_maybelline_ny @yahoo.com

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- Nutritional Counselling and many more ...

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1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
What you will learn and enjoy:
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The Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines
Resiliency and Vigilance for 40 Years and Beyond

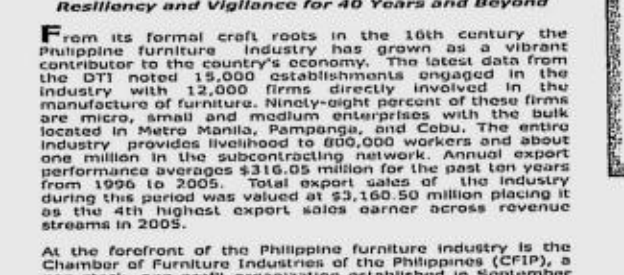
From its formal craft roots in the 16th century the Philippine furniture industry has grown as a vibrant contributor to the country's economy. The latest data from the DTI noted 15,000 establishments engaged in the industry with 12,000 firms directly involved in the manufacture of furniture. Ninety-eight percent of these firms are micro, small and medium enterprises with the bulk located in Metro Manila, Pampanga, and Cebu. The entire industry provides livelihood to 800,000 workers and about one million in the subcontracting network. Annual export performance averages $316.05 million for the past ten years from 1996 to 2005. Total export sales of the industry during this period was valued at $3,160.50 million placing it as the 4th highest export sales earner across revenue streams in 2005.

At the forefront of the Philippine furniture industry is the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP), a non-stock, non-profit organization established in September 1966 by nine furniture manufacturers and exporters based in Manila. It has now 105 regular and 35 associate members with 323 more comprising the combined membership count of its 10 regional chapters nationwide.

The Chamber as a national business support organization of Filipino furniture manufacturers and related businesses continues to ensure the sustainable growth and global competitiveness of the industry through various programs and services. Its advocacy program remained a vigilant vanguard to shielding the Philippine industry from harsh realities of challenges posed by local and global developments. Responding to such challenges and to position the industry firmly into the consciousness of its stakeholders, CFIP worked for the declaration of a national observance of Furniture Week which was realized in 2000 by PD No. 368, "Declaring the Third Week of September of Each Year as Furniture Week" to institute consistent and continuous awareness (about the industry) and assurance among all players of the industry on getting more competitive vis-à-vis the effects of globalization. Also, through the effort of the Chamber, Proclamation No. 1127 signed by Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on August 24, 2006 expanded the annual celebration to "Furniture and Furnishings Week".

General theme is "Together We are Better" for this year's celebration of the Furniture and Furnishings Week from September 18-24 that will coincide with CFIP's 40th Founding Anniversary. The double celebration will be highlighted by a one-day Symposium on Unity and Strategic Alliance from 8:00am to 5:00pm on September 27 at the Banahaw Ballroom of the Legend Villas (#60 Pioneer corner Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City). A benchmark tour showcasing the best management practices/programs of selected companies in the CALABARZON is also organized for members on September 26. Major sponsors for this year's celebration are REAL LIVING and HM TRADING.

CFIP members and interested individuals or group are welcome to the symposium which will be graced by presentations from various business and industry leaders whose works and achievements are success models of unity in their respective spheres of influence. A registration fee of P1,000.00/pax will be charged. Please contact Mr. Jovel Torres at 632-9007/631-2834 during office hours or email him at jtorres@cfip.org.ph for inquiries.



Furniture & Furnishings Week 2006
and the CFIP 40th Founding Anniversary

SYMPOSIUM ON Unity AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCE
September 27, 2006
8:00 am - 5:00 pm Banahaw Ballroom
The Legend Villas, #60 Pioneer cor. Madison Streets, Mandaluyong

Unity Among Business Support Organizations
Mr. Jay Yuvallos - Former President, CFIF

Unity Among Filipinos
Atty. Alexander Lacson - Malcolm Law Office

Unity Among ASEAN Nations
Amb. Donald Dee - President, PCCI

Unity Between Labor and Management
Mr. Oscar P. Chan - CFIP VP for Information and Education
Gen. Manager, San Jose Kitchen Cabinets Manufacturing

Unity in Marketing
Mr. Manuel T. Melgar - President
Phildansk International

Unity in Raw Materials Sourcing/ Production
Ms. Mina Gabor - President
Philippine Small and Medium Business Foundation

Unity and Conflict Resolution
Mr. Tristan Besa - Director
The Conflict Resolution Group Foundation, Inc.
(the CORE group)

Unity on Economics
Dr. Raul Fabella - Dean, UP School of Economics

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SM CITY LIPA

great fun, food and shopping everyday!

An exciting mix of merchandise and services are in store for shoppers at the new SM City Lipa. Conveniently located along Ayala Highway, SM Supermalls' 27th branch houses an impressive directory of retail establishments showcasing wearables, digital equipment and gadgets, health, beauty and wellness boutiques and many more.

All these, in addition to the mall's dining and leisure opportunities are designed to keep Lipa residents shopping in style and comfort everyday!

Enjoy shopping everyday!

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see and read

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be connected

Advanced Contact Solutions, Inc. • Comworks Inc. • DGD Trading • Games & Gadgets • Globe Telecom Globelines Payments • Mega Cellular • Smart Communications • Twinline Trading

pretty up/personal needs

Century Chinese Drugstore • David's for Rever • ERG Health Shop• Forever Flawless• Freshaire• GQ Barbershop• Let's Face It• The Body Shop• YSA Skin Care Center• Watsons

go digital

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dine in

Andok's Litson Manok • Chowking • Flavours of China • Go Nuts Donuts • Max's Restaurant Goldilocks • Greenwich • Jollibee Tokyo Tokyo • KFC • Gerry's Grill Mc Donalds • Mister Donut • Pizza Hut • Karate Kid • Yellow Cab • Mat Sa Rang Restaurant

services & a lot more

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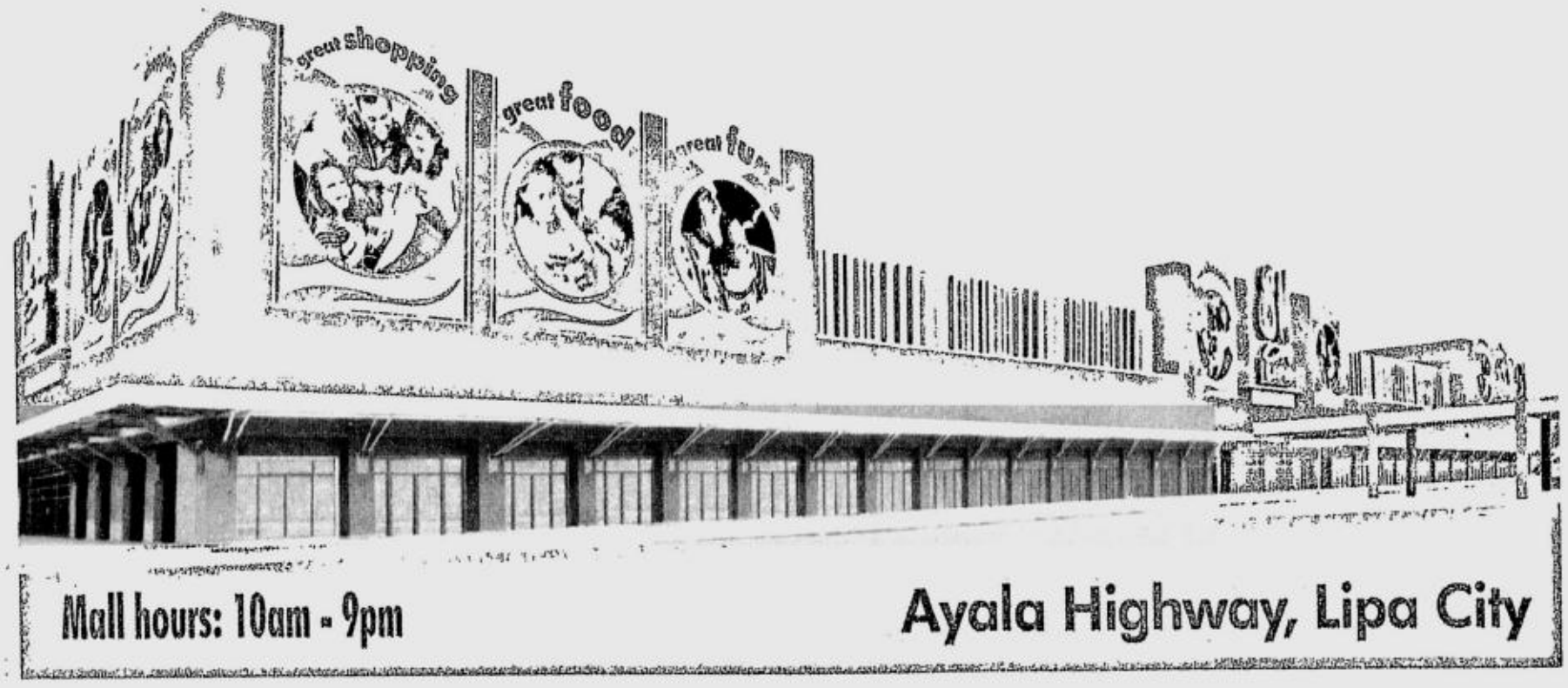

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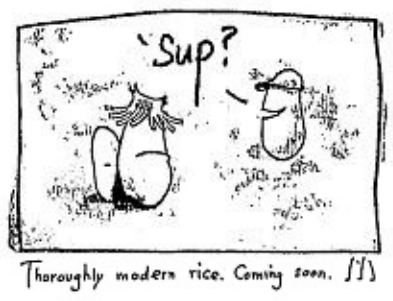


FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Sportswear crosses over to mainstream fashion

The Adidas tennis tournament in Bali is a spectacle of young "glamazons"

TENNIS star-turned-fashion icon Maria Kirilenko (left) in Stella McCartney tennis dress which has crossed over to mainstream daywear for the young; (above) Serbian tennis champion Ana Ivanovic, 18, in latest tennis Adidas line

WHEN OUR LIFESTYLE editor texted me to ask if I was interested to go to the Adidas tennis tournament in Bali, I wondered if she knew that sending me there would be like letting a kid loose in Disneyland.

I had the temerity to ask, "Do I join or watch *lang*?" Chelo Banal-Formoso graciously texted back, "Sorry, watch *lang*." Back to modest reality.

I imagined Martina Hingis would be there along with other Adidas tennis icons. (She wasn't.) Anyway, Hingis or no Hingis, the annual Wismilak tournament at Grand Hyatt Bali always comes at the tail-end of the US Open in New York early September and features the top tennis women seeds. It is the biggest women's tournament in Southeast Asia.

This time, Adidas brought the Asian media to the tournament. It also brought them to Como Shambhala Estate in Begawan Giri, the high-end resort and wellness center in Bali, for a four-day "Power from Within" retreat.

In the majestic estate surrounded by the sacred Ayung River, terraced rice fields and forest mountains, women were supposed to connect to their inner selves by tuning out the stressful world (curiously, my villa was a dead spot for Blackberry) and by indulging in yoga, Pilates, strength-training, tai chi, and other fitness regimen I could skip without guilt, for tennis.

Watching a Wismilak match and meeting some of the tennis icons were just part of the Adidas agenda. It was my whole agenda, however.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

Very influential

Honestly, no other sport has influenced women's activewear these days more than tennis. (I make that declaration from my biased perch.) Tenniswear isn't confined to the court or players; it has crossed over to mainstream daywear. You see girls—preteens, teens and young adults—in tennis skirts and shorts, tennis tanks, or babydoll tops. Thanks to lust—for tennis players such as Anna Kournikova (who has never won a title but has captivated legions of male fans the world over), Maria Sharapova, Daniela Hantuchova, Ana Ivanovic, power icons Hingis and Justine Henin-Hardenne.

Those long-legged and reed-thin Russians and Eastern Europeans lead the "glamazons" on the court at Roland Garros, Wimbledon, Australian Open and the US Open. And with them winning big contracts for advertising endorsements, tennis has become glitzy and glamorous.

Why is tennis suddenly fashionable? More women may be into running, yoga, swimming, gym, or even into basketball, golf, badminton. But these sports don't have the TV global audiences the Grand Slams have—where the women's getups are on the screen for as long as three straight hours, enough time for women spectators (and men, too) to drool over the plunging necklines, the colors, the swirl of the skirt, the sweaty bodies, or even the Adidas stripes on the shoulder lines.

It's no exaggeration to say that less than a month after the Grand Slam, you'd see women on the court sporting the Adidas lilac or red orange, and now after the US Open, Justine's blue. That is how tenniswear seeps into mainstream fashion.

But then, tennis and fashion are no strange bedfellows. Coco Chanel's loose jersey dress, which revolutionized fashion, initially paraded itself on the tennis court, worn by her French contemporaries in the '20s like Suzanne Lenglen, the first female tennis celebrity after whom the famous French Open tennis stadium is named.

After Adidas signed up Stella McCartney to design its running, gym and swim lines in 2005, and its tennis line in 2006, there's no turning back for sportswear—it is fully married to fashion, and women have become conscious of design and style as they gear up for their sports.

Earlier, Adidas had drafted Yohji Yamamoto. From then on, sports-performance gear has come packaged in cutting-edge design.

Catwalk queens

On the eve of the Wismilak tournament when the top women seeds had a fashion show of Adidas' adilibria collection, Patty Schnyder, Ana Ivanovic, Daniela Hantuchova, among others, tried (tried!) to walk the model's walk in their tennis tops, shirts, shorts, suits and jackets, pants. The white empire-cut tank with the Adidas black stripe running just below the bosom will surely be the signature wear this season on the court.

Not readily evident on the ramp were the minute details in the ensembles that could spell the difference between insufferable sweat and liberating perspiration, between cramped movement and free mobility—design features placed, for instance, on the hips or thighs or right below the breasts.

"The idea [behind sports-performance wear] is how to maximize your energy," explained Angelica Suiza, Adidas head for category management of Southeast Asia, on the rationale behind today's sports-performance wardrobe.

Today's ensembles have "body mapping," which defines your sweat zones, thus enabling your skin to breathe, allowing air to circulate, thanks to the advanced fabric technology.

Today's women have such an active lifestyle that a survey of Singaporean women, Suiza noted, revealed women expressed greater concern for their body than their face. They demand comfort and utmost performance from the activewear they buy.

Given female consumer consciousness, fabric technology cannot but be advanced. Adidas, for instance, has ClimaCool, which manages moisture, ensures ventilation; and ForMotion, which enhances the athlete's movements such as linear (running or forward motion), lateral (tennis or upper body rotation), and helix (football or soccer or lower body movement).

And you thought skincare technology was complex?

Behind the scenes in Bali, we had our "fan moments" with Schnyder, Ivanovic, Hantuchova, Svetlana Kuznetsova, Todd Woodbridge (of the Wimbledon doubles' fame), and Lindsay Davenport (I thought I wouldn't reach up to her waist; that's how tall she is).

Asked how she prepares for a match, the young Ivanovic said, "Focus. Be by myself. Have some quiet. Think clear and control my emotions."

In sports and in life, power indeed comes from within.

NINE WEST

Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Gateway, Rustan's Harrison Plaza, Greenbelt 3, Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, Shangri-La Plaza, Festival SuperMall, The Power Plant, SM North Edsa, Ayala Center Cebu and SM Mall of Asia

ADILIBRIA gym outfit

UK'S Todd Woodbridge (right) walks the ramp at the Wismilak tournament in Bali with Indonesian Wijaja.

SWITZERLAND'S top seed Patty Schnyder in adilibria on the ramp in Bali

GOV. BONGBONG Marcos, Andrea and architect Anton Mendoza

FLORAL Silk president Mike Sandoval and Freddie Olbes

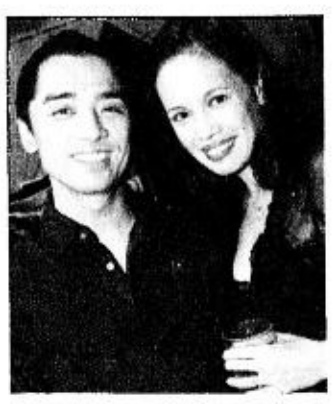
ZUBIRIS: Bea, Stephanie, Miguel and Audrey (Tan)

BOBBY Novenario, Cecil Pecson, Mina Roasa and Therese Coronel Santos

TATIANA Santo Domingo and Andrea with the working committee for the Virlanie Cuff launch: Joji Dingcong, Robert Blancaflor, Susan Joven, and Amade Mondiale secretary general Francis Kasasa

PEPPER Teehankee and Carmen Delgado

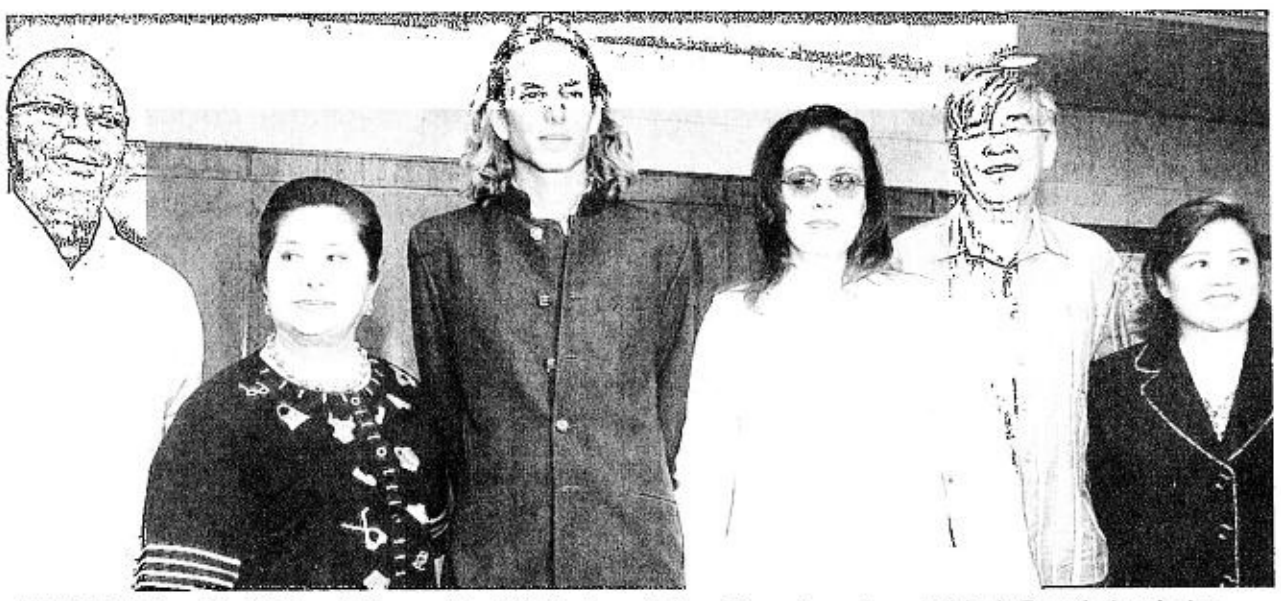
VISCOUNT Louis de Jonghe and wife Gigi



REM Zamora and Ana Bitong

ANDREA with Virlanie volunteers

ANDREA flanked by Louie Ysmael of Nuvo and Bobong Velez of Mezze



ANDREA Casiraghi with Francis Kasasa; Marietta Santos, chair and board member of Virlanie Foundation; Josine Elizalde, member; Dominique Lemay, Virlanie president and founder; and Deeda Garcia-Verzosa, member

ANDREA, Mariel Yulo, Patricia and Gabbie Cojuangco

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WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

FOR OVER A WEEK, THE renowned Virlanie Foundation, a socio-civic organization that has been working hand in hand with the Amade Mondiale Foundation to provide much-needed shelter and guidance to abused children, was in the news, *palanggas*.

To promote its worthy cause, the foundation held a super fun launch of the Virlanie cuff. Dubbed as "Royal Chill-Out," the event was held in the popular, upscale Nuvo and Mezze Bar restaurants in Greenbelt 2.

The Virlanie cuff, in the "healing color" of Hermes orange, is a symbol of advocacy in safeguarding the Filipino children from violence and exploitation. It was superbly designed by the prince of *alta moda*, **Inno Sotto**, no less, dahlings.

Heading the hotshot invitees were **Andrea Casiraghi**, and his tall, elegant girlfriend, *la simpatica* **Tatiana Santo Domingo**, Colombian heiress whose family's mega businesses include Aviaca Airline. *Naturellement*, the eldest son of Her Royal Highness Princess of Hanover (also Her Serene Highness **Princess Caroline** of Monaco) visited the various charity projects of his mother with the Amade-Virlanie Foundation.

The launch was hosted by the foundation's executive committee consisting of workaholic chair **Marietta Santos** and members **Josine Elizalde**, **Deeda Garcia-Verzosa** and Dr. **Tony Protacio**, who dedicate their time and effort to abused and street children; together with Virlanie Foundation's founder and president, **Dominique Lemay**.

All the invitees proudly wore the cuff to show that no help was too little in making a world of difference, especially in the lives of the many children that Virlanie was helping. Helping make the event possible were the golden-hearted Globe Telecom people and other personalities. The fab production was produced by the talented **Joji Dingcong** and the set designed and styled by the inimitable southern gent, **Robert Blancaflor**, *palanggas*.

Other sponsors included Ayala Land, Rustan's Essenses with Inno's popular ISM cologne line, the bubbly Moet Chandon, Prestige Cars, and Nuvo and Mezze, natch!

Days before the chill-out happening, Andrea also graced a fiesta dinner in honor of the wonderful, caring Virlanie volunteers held at the Fiesta Pavilion, Makati Plaza, JP Rizal extension, West Rembo, Makati, *palanggas*.

Andrea cheered the young volunteers and danced and sang with them. His eyes glowed with happiness as he inspired the volunteers to continue their charity work. The Filipino volunteers were joined by others like them from Europe and Asia, *palanggas*.

Interested parties who want to contribute to the worthy cause may call the Virlanie Foundation at 8962289 or 8955260.

Wear the cuff with pride, *palanggas*, knowing that your donation will help make many abused and street children happier, healthier young citizens one day.

An 80th musical

It was the happiest day in the life of our queen for a day, the beautiful **Aurora "Baby" Alisangco-Mendoza**, widow of the late architect **Felipe Mendoza**. She celebrated her big day with her entire *famille*, all 49 of them, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, *palanggas*.

From all over the globe, the seven Mendoza children jetted in with their spouses, dahlings: **John** and **Nini Mitchell**, Local Government Secretary **Ronnie** and **Pinky Puno**, **Eddie** and **Daisy Mendoza**, **Noni** and **Maryjo Mendoza**, **Travis** and **Sally Finley**, **Jojo** and **Vicky Mendoza**, and **Mark** and **Margie Alexander**.

They were joined by 20 gorgeous grandchildren, five of them with their spouses, and 10 super-nice great grandchildren.

Naturellement, for Baby M's 80th, a grand production was cooked up, a tradition of the Mendoza *famille*, to showcase the multiple talents of its members.

The meticulously put-together slide presentation was a labor of love of son Noni, who painstakingly restored and enhanced faded photographs of the celebrator's youth and beauty. Son Eddie proved to be a chip off the block with his excellent hosting job, as Papang Ipe was a celebrated host and roaster himself.

The awesome variety show was the project of daughter Pinky, who conceptualizes, directs and choreographs shows in the United States and who is an international ballroom dance competitor. Her excellent co-choreographers were her sisters Nini and Sally, *palanggas*.

The well-produced show was a light comedy, a pop concert, a Broadway musical and a poignant journey down memory lane all rolled into one. It left all the invitees in sheer ecstasy throughout the entire presentation.

Well, dahlings, not to be outdone was the celebrator herself who surprised everyone with her own vibrant rendition of the salsa complete with a dip.

Needless to say, this memorable happening was an evening of total fun, entertainment, laughter and love.

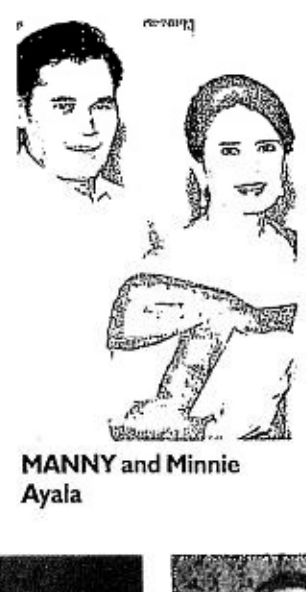
Aurora "Baby" Alisangco-Mendoza's phantasmagoric 80th birthday celebration will remain in the hearts of the *famille* and pals for a very, very long time.

Cheers, *palangga*!

N not M

I must have had a rough night the day before that's why I used M instead of N in Nanohana. Sorry, *palanggas*. The correct name of the Japanese restaurant is Nanohana.

MICA Espiritu, Maisie Finley and Nicky Mendoza



MANNY and Minnie Ayala

MINETTA Ayala and Eddie Ayala

JOSE Mari Chan and wife Maryann Ansaldo

OUR QUEEN for a day, beautiful 80 years young Aurora "Baby" A. Mendoza

MOMMY del Rosario, Linda Ibuna, Elsa Syjuco, Ching Lopez and Lynn Gopez; (standing) Ada Moran, Tita Basa, the celebrator, and Elvie Dayrit

MENDOZA SIBLINGS. Jojo, Noni and Eddie; (seated) Sally, Margie, Pinky and Nini

SECRETARY Ronaldo Puno and children Ron, Ronna, Nina, Wendy, Tami, Mike and Greg

TONY Ayala, Kimmy Alexander, Chris Ayala, Kristen Alexander and Noel Puno

NIKKO Mendoza, Tami Puno, Joy Mendoza, Danie Mendoza, Johanna Mitchell and Denise Rodriguez

Fall's statements

GUCCI limited-edition equestrian-inspired bags for Fall-Winter

THE BOLD RED S-A-L-E POSTERS were like a beacon calling out your name, and you were only human. But a few weeks later, they would have been taken down from the shop, and before you even get a chance to balance your checkbooks, up on the racks and shelves are fall's offerings.

At Gucci, which is celebrating its 85th anniversary, two styles of its limited-edition equestrian-inspired handbags are available to the Philippine market until December. Each bears the enamel and brass 85th anniversary plaque.

For apparel, you will find pants that are either super skinny or have wider hems. Suits are androgynous-looking, with skinny waists and wide lapels. Jersey dresses are covered in metallic beads, while biker jackets come in pearlized skin or in lizard patchwork. Footwear achieves new heights with the season's platform pumps and glorious logo-embossed platform booties.

Women get to dress up in modern ease as DKNY serves up schoolgirl-style pinafores, tailored velour blazers, T-shirt dresses, oversized sweaters, high-waist and boy shorts. There are also shoulder cardigans, waisted belts, black leggings (but naturally), and studded Mary Janes and heeled booties.

Laundry by Shelli Segal dresses up the ladies in vintage punk pieces—skinny pants, jackets with jeweled closured, velvety puff sleeves—or Japanese-inspired styles—dresses and blouses with kimono sleeves and obi waists, skinny trousers and pencil skirts, bubble dress and blousy tops.

Escada Sport, meanwhile, has straight-cut jeans, men's style tweed pants, and tweed jackets with shawl collars. Its bright ski fashions take inspiration from Japanese manga, and are made of soft, shiny and weather-resistant nylons. There are also low-cut pullovers, cable knit pieces with Swarovski crystals, embroidered jeans, short denim jackets with large collars and gold buttons.

GUCCI

ESCADA

Bottega Veneta's tailored apparel focuses on the waist, the shoulder and the hips, with narrow but easy silhouettes. The pieces are generally free of embellishments, a stark contrast to its livelier purses, which make use of antiqued leather and brassware. The Tournabuoni pumps sporting the brand's signature woven leather are just luscious.

BOTTEGA Veneta

BOTTEGA Veneta

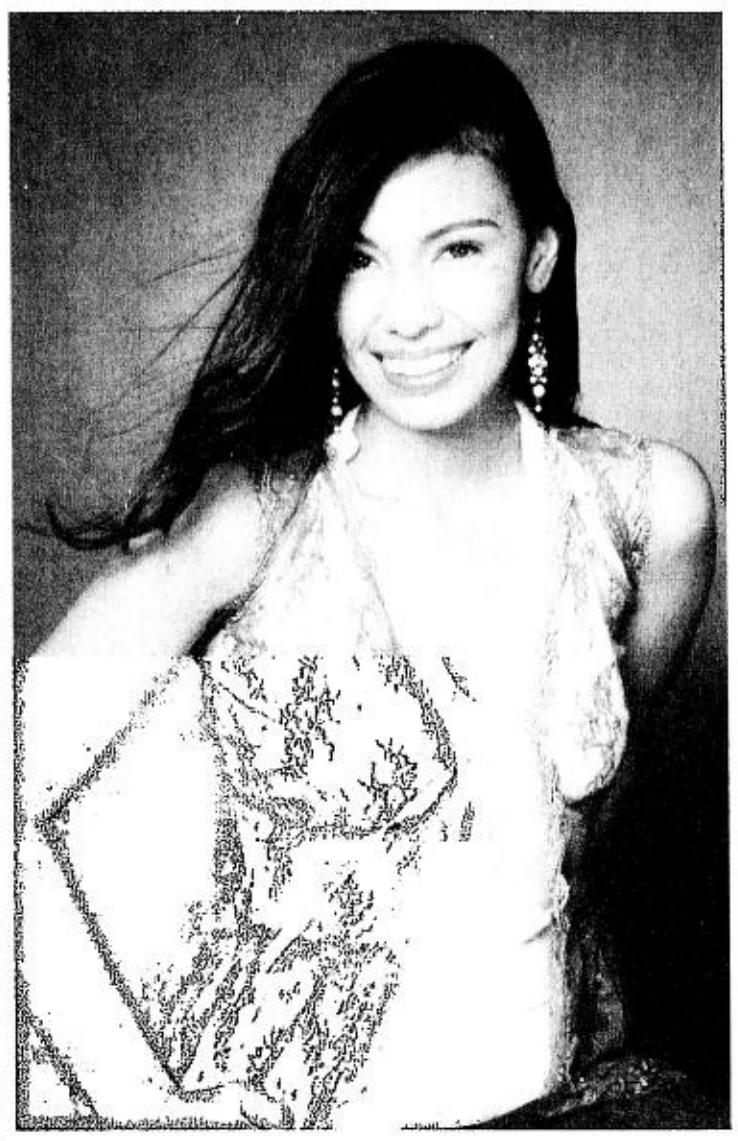
Bally revisits the 1950s, the time of Grace Kelly, Marlene Dietrich and Judy Garland, for its purse styles that feature leather-wrapped tassels. Its handbags of cable knit wool with pompom accents, however, are undoubtedly among its more covetable pieces. Gentlemen will find English dandy-style footwear—sleek and elongated cord and pony loafers with herringbone or Donegal tweed inserts, lizard wingtips, pony pairs with crocodile trims.

BALLY

It's volume-plus-slim as a whole at Calvin Klein, where the season's oversize sweaters cavort with black leggings, dark shoes and heavy purses. Men will find slim trousers and iridescent shirts for thoroughly urban looks. Calvin Klein Jeans have the skinniest denims for women, with rodeo-inspired treatments like rhinestones and studs and embroidery. Dressier jeans have a shiny finish for the ladies, and light and matte for their boyfriends.

DKNY

CALVIN Klein

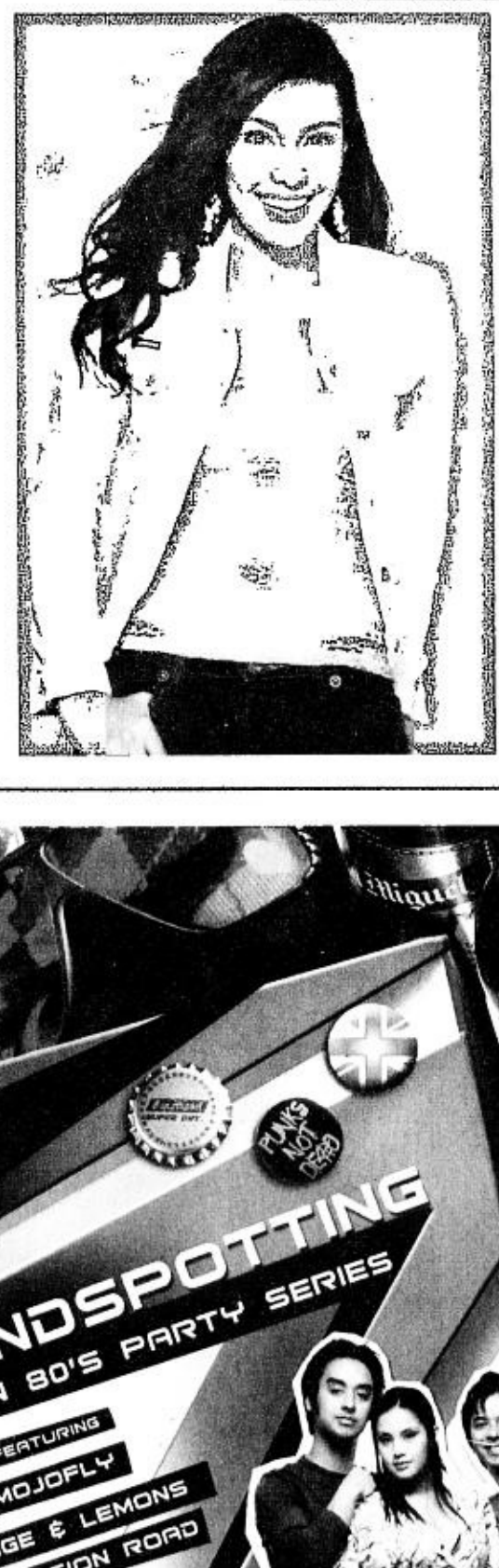


Layering with lace

LACE, ROMANTIC AND EXQUISITE, IS back, but this time there's nothing traditional or prissy about it. At SM, lace is fun, playful, and even edgy, as in:

- Leggings! Yes, it's a fashion flashback from the '80s (think Flashdance)! And lace leggings are making fashion news worn under skirts and cool tops. Lace has never looked so hip!
- Bubble tops! A take-off from Lacroix's pouf fashion, bubble inspired pieces are adding a fun and playful spirit to lace. Wear a lace bubble top with jeans for that nonchalant chic look.
- Layering! Mix and match lace pieces with your more basic wardrobe—a lace bolero over a tee and pants; a lace chemise under a denim jacket, lace belt with a layered chiffon skirt and tank top. The possibilities can surprise you.
- A military palette! Khaki and olive green lace pieces are the order of the day along with the more traditional black, white and classic pieces.

The lace collection is available at the Girls Teens Wear Department of all SM stores.



CLOCKWISE from top left: fatigue lace sleeveless bolero with tie knot accents over an off-white V-neck sleeveless top; brown lace bolero over beige tank top with ruffles and bow accents, and jeans; peach lace bubble top with white piping and skinny denim jeans; V-neck spaghetti-strap lace top, white jacket and denim jeans

PHOTOGRAPHY
ERWIN BARLETA
HAIR AND MAKEUP
LOWELL BUENAVENTURA

Art raffle for new college campus

THE ST. THERESA'S COLLEGE MANILA (STC-M) High School Class of '78 Foundation is holding its annual art raffle at 4 p.m., Sept. 23, at the Gallery Hues, MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio, Global City. This year's benefit is titled "Art is Kool! A Juried Art Raffle for a Theresian Cause." The foundation is collaborating this year with Kulay Marikina, an association of 25 Marikina-based artists. Works by Malang and Cid Reyes will also be raffled off. A jury composed of Boquiren, Velasco and Cruz chose the pieces to be included in the raffle. Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the STC-M Foundation to help set up the new campus of STC-M, as well as finance its annual medical missions and outreach projects. Call 8902824 or 0917-8069894 or e-mail stcmartraffle@yahoo.com.

GOINGS ON

FREEBIES. Dupé is giving away a key chain until Sept. 30 for every single purchase of two pairs of rubber sandals. A product of Brazil, Dupé uses the *penta* polymer technology for better impact absorption and a softer feel. Dupé rubber sandals, available in a wide range of colors and designs, cost P295-P595 a pair. Get Dupé at Landmark; SM Department Store in SM Mall of Asia; Shoe Salon outlets in SM Mall of Asia, Robinsons Galleria, Shangri-La Mall, The Podium, Glorietta, Rockwell, Metro East, City Walk 2, Alabang Town Center and Gateway Mall; and in Robinsons Department Store in Festival Mall, Galleria and Manila.

ANNIVERSARY. The Philippines Institute of Interior Designers will celebrate its 42nd anniversary Sept. 23, at the members-only Tower Club of The Philam Tower, Makati. Interior designers who have excelled in their field will be honored. Hall of fame awardees are architect Lor Calma, Gerry Contreras, Edith Oliveros, Sonia Olivares, Pandot Ocampo and Ched Berenguer-Topacio. A posthumous award will be given to Edgar Ramirez.

EXHIBIT. The 17th annual Ikebana exhibit of the Sogetsu Manila Potential Branch will be held Sept. 22-24, at GF, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. Dubbed "Glass Illusions," the exhibit showcases modern arrangements using only crystal and glass vases of various shapes, sizes and colors.

ALUMNI HOMECOMING. St. Joseph Academy-Caloocan Class 1967 will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Jan. 27, 2007. Call 0919-4739815 or 0922-8037013.

SALO-SALO. Batch '66 of Sigma Delta Phi Sorority of the University of the Philippines is inviting all Sigma Deltans to a *salo-salo*, "Kiss at 40," 11 a.m., Sept. 30, at the Town and Country Estate Clubhouse, Antipolo City. Call 8140436 and 0918-9009340.

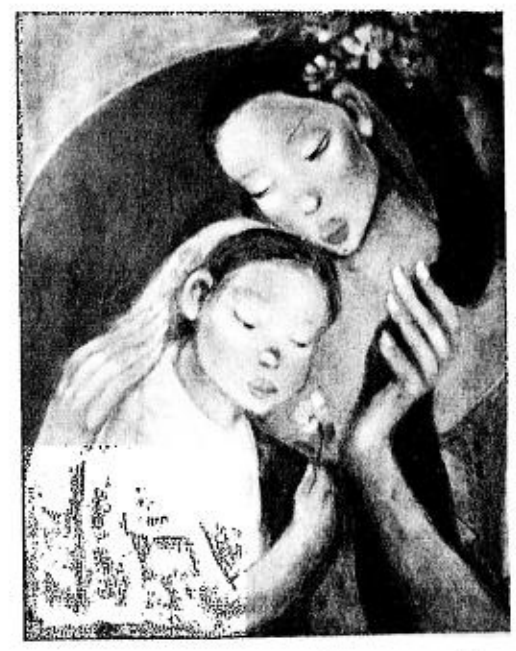
GARAGE SALE. The Sweethearts of Christ Foundation, Inc. will hold its fundraising garage sale 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sept. 23, at 630 Taysan St., Ayala Alabang. On sale are home furnishing, garden accessories, appliances, clothes and fashion accessories.

MEXICAN COOKING. Learn Mexican cooking in San Miguel Pure Foods' La Cocina Mexicana 1:30-4:30 p.m., Sept. 27, at the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, Legaspi cor. Eagle Sts., Bo. Ugong, Pasig. Estela Lomeli Blanco will teach how to make corn and flour tortillas, beans and rice, enchilada, *burrito*, *flauta* and *quesadillas*. Registration fee is P800 per person. My Great Food Club Members get a 20-percent discount. Call 6322000 or 6719876 loc. 402 and 2771 or visit www.mygreatfood.com.

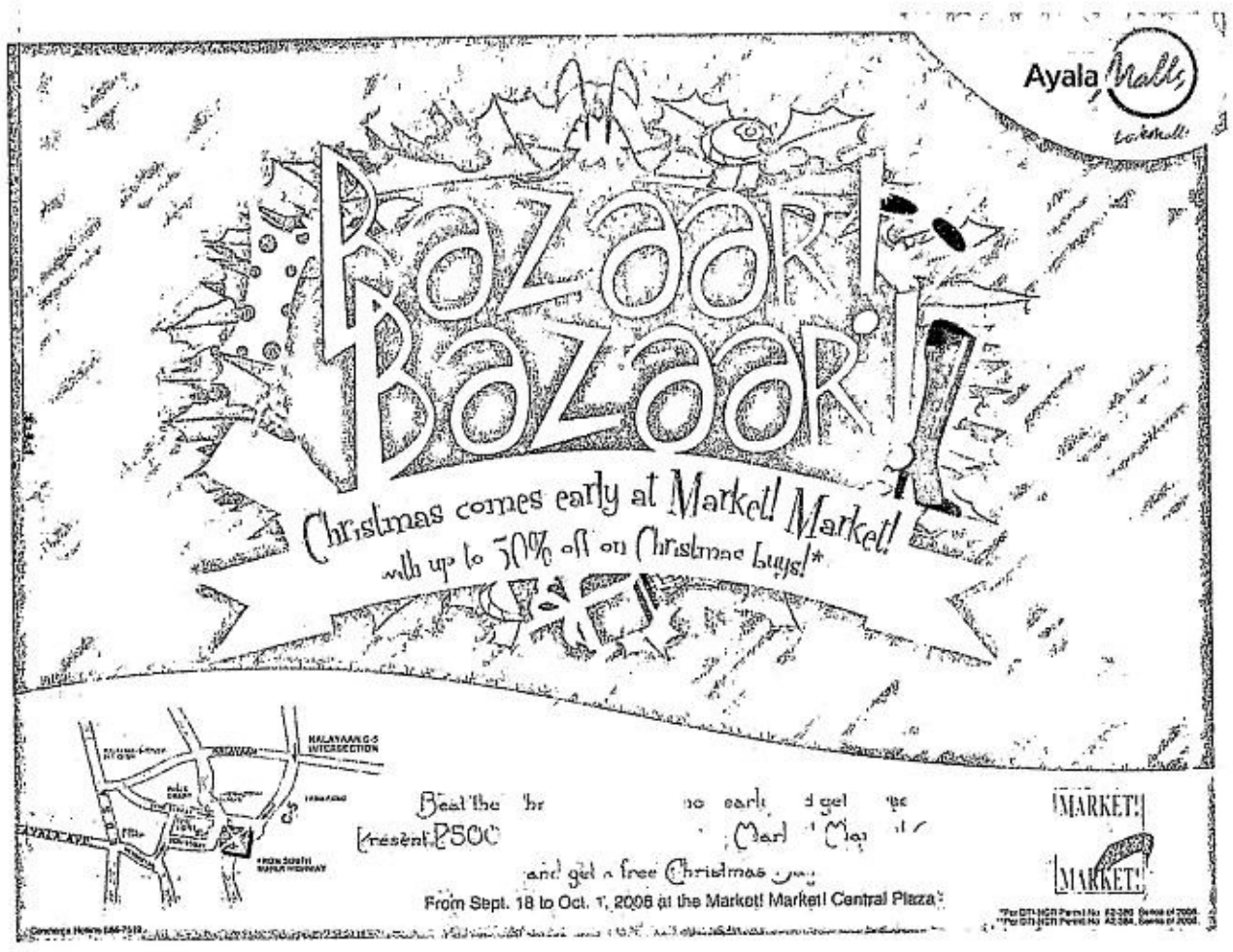
DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP. ProActive Center will hold a three-day "Develop Your Professional Assertiveness and Confidence" workshop, Oct. 4-6, 1-5 p.m., at Unit 1203, Antel Global Corporate Center, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City. Call 6673369 to 70.

SEMINAR. Maya focuses on coffee with "Coffee Basic 101 (Barista course)," 2-6 p.m, Sept. 23. The class covers history, process, troubleshooting, coffee blend, machine know-how—proper grinding and techniques for perfect froth. "Traditional Hot Coffee Concoction" covers Espresso Doppio, Cappuccino, Latte Macchiatto and Cold Coffee Concoction. Learn a wide variety of baking skills in Free Baking Demo, 4-5 p.m., Sept. 29. Pre-registration required. Present three empty packages of any Maya hotcake or cake mixes). Visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday) at 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

SEMINARS. CFS Creative Training Management will hold the following seminars: "Leadership Skills (Effective People Management)," Sept. 27-28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; "Handling Stress and Pressure at Work," Sept. 30, 1-5 p.m.; "Time Management," Sept. 30, 9 a.m.-12 nn; "Effective Business Communication," Oct. 12-13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Speaker is Gerry Romualdez. Call 8697960, 8232358 or 234825 or e-mail cfscreative@yahoo.com.ph



AN OIL painting by Lydia Velasco, one of the 11 great Filipino artists of the Federation of Asian Artists, is among those to be raffled off in "Art is Kool! A Juried Art Raffle for a Theresian Cause" on Sept. 23.



New officers for FDCP

THE FASHION AND design Council of the Philippines (FDCP) proudly announces its new set of officers led by Jojie Lloren, president; Len Nepomuceno-Guiao, vice president; JC Buendia, secretary; Frederick Peralta, treasurer; board members: PJ Aranador, Dong Omaga-Diaz, Rajo Laurel, Bernice Palanca-Go; advisory board: Josie Natori, Lulu Tan Gan and Cesar Gaupo.

The FDCP implements projects with the vision of making known globally the creative talents of Filipino designers.

The FDCP membership to date is as follows: Edwin Ao, PJ Arañador, Ivarluski Aseron, Avel Bacudio, Vittorio Barba, Anton Barretto, JC Buendia, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Joey Enriquez, Larry Espinosa, Ramon Esteban, Arcy Gayatin, OJ Hofer, Gerry Katigbak, Rajo Laurel, Ricci Lizaso, Jojie Lloren, Robi Lolin, Dennis Lustico, Len Nepomuceno-Guiao, Anthony Nocom, Bobby Novenario, Tippi Ocampo, Dong Omaga-Diaz, Randy Ortiz, Bernice Palanca-Go, Nono Palmos, Frederick Peralta, Alex Pigao, Joey Samson and Hindy Weber-Tantoco.

Previous FDCP presidents includes Inno Sotto (1995-1997), Lulu Tan Gan (1998-2000) and Randy Ortiz (2000-2005).

The FDCP Secretariat office is at Suite 1-B, Basement Floor, The Colonnade, 132 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, 1227 Makati.

Call 0917-6052613. E-mail fdcp.secretariat@gmail.com or visit www.fdcp.org.

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Emmie G. Velarde
name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart)
us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

OSCAR-WINNING actor tries romantic comedy.

A kinder, gentler Russell Crowe?

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—AS WE WROTE in a previous column, our recent press con with **Russell Crowe** during the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) went boringly well.

The mercurial actor often broke into laughter, completely in sync with the spirit of his light romantic comedy, "A Good Year." He plays a London investment expert who inherits a small vineyard in beautiful Provence. More tourists will flock to this southeast France countryside as a result of this film, which also stars the esteemed **Albert Finney, Freddie Highmore** (the actor plays the young Russell), and two lovely women, French **Marion Cotillard** and one Australian **Abbie Cornish.**

No to violence

Last time we talked to the rock dilettante (he sings, plays the guitar and writes songs for the band, 30 Odd Foot Of Grunts), he commented on violence in relation to his role as a boxer in "Cinderella Man": "I had a very concentrated period during the course of this film of learning why fighting is not a good thing (laughter)... I don't want to ever get myself into a violent situation again. I've seen and felt its effect. I know more now and I really don't want to find myself in that situation using that knowledge."

More than a week after Russell said this, he was arrested in New York for allegedly throwing a telephone at a hotel clerk. The actor settled the case out of court.

Director **Ridley Scott**, who felt at ease filming in Provence since he has a vacation home and a vineyard there, provided a keen insight into the star and the Oscar Best Picture awardee, "Gladiator": "Russell has two children now, which I think always makes a difference in the best possible way. He has evolved a little bit. I hope he never loses the bad boy in him. That's what makes the clock tick. I think he just learns to keep it under control."

The solemn-faced British filmmaker, elaborating on the evolution of Russell Crowe, addressed indirectly the reported difficult working relationship between him and Russell in "Gladiator."

Ridley said, "I'm doing my third film ('American Gangster') with him now. From a director's point of view, it is much easier if you have all the peripheral stuff out of the way when you're dealing with an actor. When you're working with an actor for the first time, you have to waltz a little bit and then gradually learn about each other. Usually by the end of filming, you know who each other is, and half the time, it is too late. In 'Gladiator,' our relationship went though a baptism of fire. It may have looked smooth but it was really hard making that movie. We were writing as we went. Out of that came a kind of mutual respect. We kept in touch with a view to working again."

Russell's two young sons—**Charles** or Charlie, 2, and **Tennyson**, two months—are with singer-actress **Danielle Spencer**, his wife of three years.

Below are excerpts from our press con with Russell, relaxed in an all-black ensemble—hooded jacket, T-shirt and sweatpants.

A KINDER/ F4

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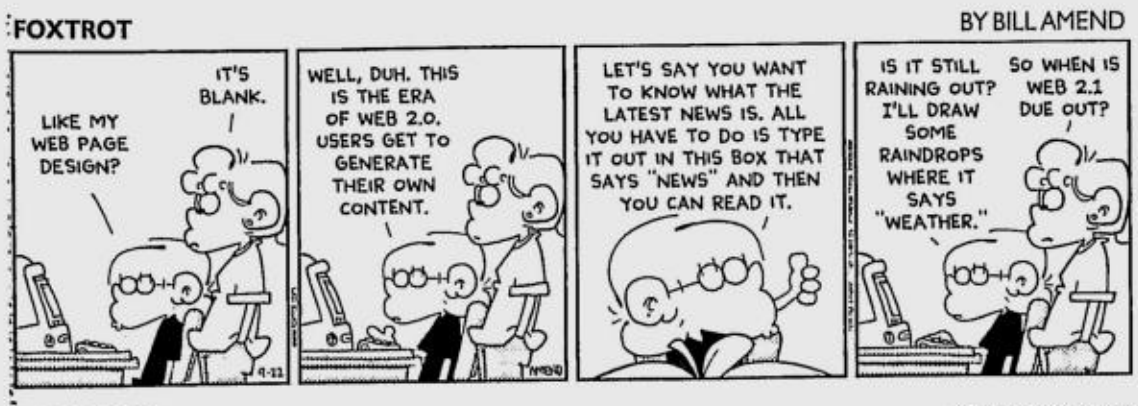

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

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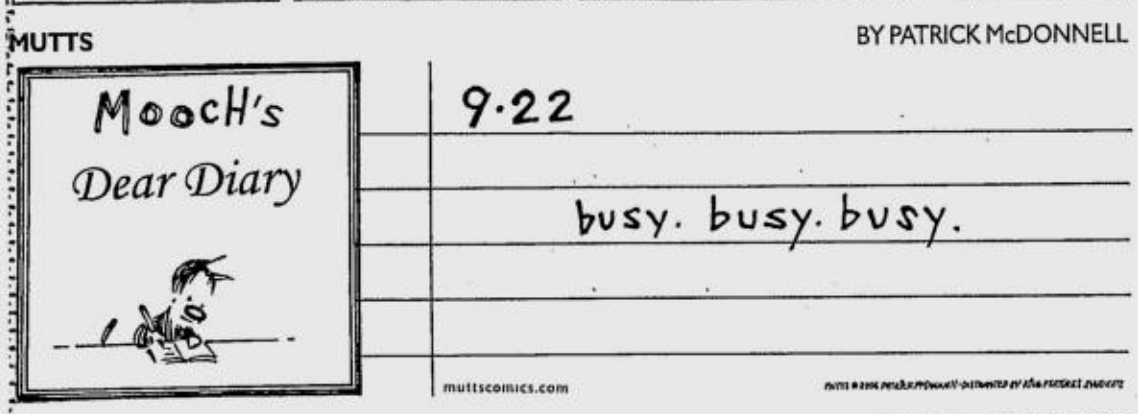
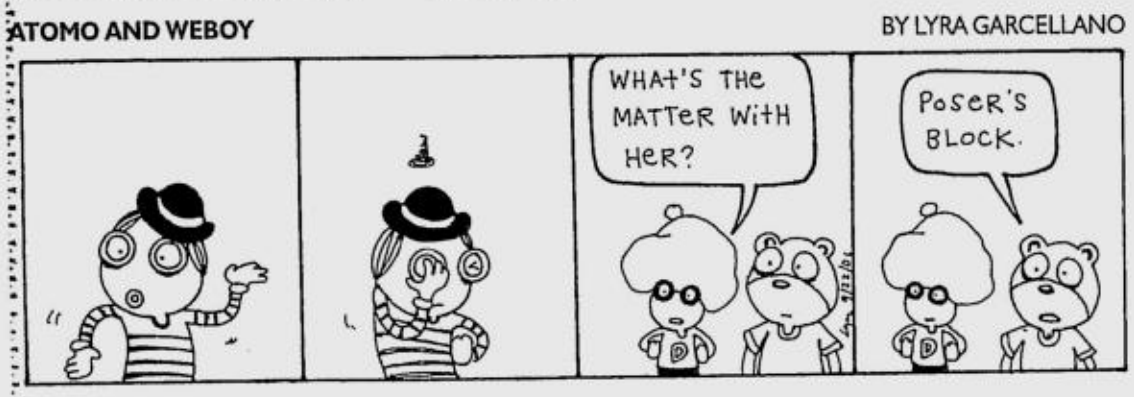


LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



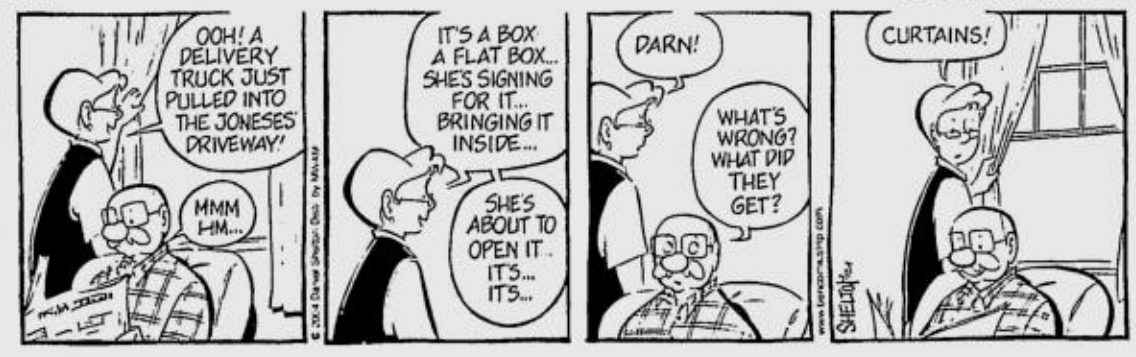
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

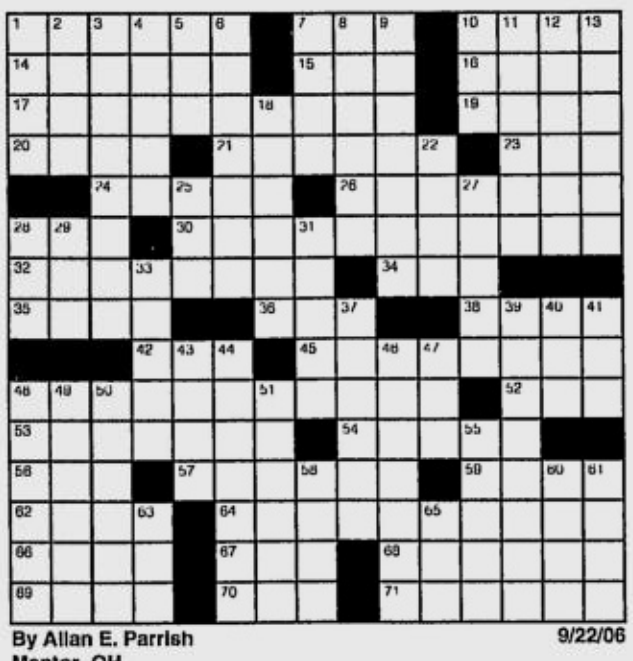
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

9/22/06

ACROSS
1 Hurt
7 Immigrant's subj.
10 Scottish Gaelic
14 Dennis of "Brewster's Millions"
15 Actress Ruby
16 Atlas contents
17 Harry Anderson sitcom
19 See 12D
20 Give out
21 Track down
23 Writer Levin
24 Of the nose
26 Outfielder Kirby
28 Ms. Thurman
30 Quick training session
32 Bookstore section
34 Wrap up
35 "M*A*S*H" star
36 Track org.
38 Protest-singer Phil
42 Harrumph!
45 Brownie pic
48 Gem in the Smithsonian
52 Frozen
53 Leading
54 Chick of jazz
56 Luau loop
57 Edberg of tennis
59 Links grp.
62 Ms. Minnelli
64 "Norma Rae" star
66 Adam's garden
67 Simile center
68 Like the Tower of London
69 Cooking fat
70 Singer Ritter
71 Feels

DOWN
1 Sharpen
2 Actor Tamiroff
3 Elton's real first name
4 Conductor Zubin
5 Young newt
6 Assert
7 Part of NEA
8 Lofty angel
9 Paper money
10 Common center?
11 Sword with a double edge
12 With 19A, part of 17A, 30A, 48A and 64A
13 Landed manor
18 Comic French comment
22 MBA course
25 VMI, e.g.
27 Acclaim
28 Made in the __
29 Torme or Tillis
31 Burst of energy
33 Pen name?
37 West Coast-based petroleum company
39 Faddish plants
40 Ad __ committee
41 Pigs' digs
43 Fusses
44 Alludes to
46 Fake names
47 Medical info bible
48 Ancient Jewish rabbi
49 Iroquois tribe
50 Celebrex maker
51 Command to relax
55 Cuban boy in the news in 2000
58 Linen source
60 Jubilation
61 Tacks on
63 Up-coming connector
65 Adversary

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

D	O	N	T		S	H	I	P	S		A	M	A	H
A	V	O	W		P	E	D	A	L		L	A	V	E
D	A	T	A		O	R	A	T	E		L	O	A	F
			N	P	R		H	I	E		E	R	S	T
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E	S	C		N	I	L	E	S		R	O	L	L	O
P	E	T	S		C	O	V	E	R		P	E	E	N
S	T	A	T	E		W	A	V	E	D		A	A	R
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O	B	I	E		P	I	N		M	S	S			
R	E	E	D		P	L	U	M	B		O	B	E	Y
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O	M	E	N		D	R	E	A	R		B	O	O	K

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9/22/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're determined to explore new horizons. You love to experiment, in large measure because you love a challenge. You sometimes shock others with your appearance and style; nevertheless, personally, you have a very warm heart. Others often imitate you, probably because you march to your own drummer. In the coming year you will face an important choice. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Andrea Bocelli, tenor; Joan Jett, singer; Bonnie Hunt, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): A good day to think about what you can do to improve your efficiency and effectiveness in your daily activities. Think of things that would make your life run more smoothly.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're a hardworking sign. However, it's also important to rest and play. We all need balance in our lives. Do you give yourself enough playtime?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is the day to think about how to improve where you live, as well as how to improve your relations with family members. This is your nest.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Studies indicate that in the best of communications, only 40 percent is really getting back and forth. Never take communication with your relatives and siblings for granted.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today's Solar Eclipse is the perfect time to try to reorganize your financial scene. Figure out how much is coming in; figure out how much is going out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's New Moon occurs in your sign. Now is the time to scrutinize your self-image and the first impression you create on others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): In a busy world, it's easy to forget your spiritual life. Nevertheless, these values and your ability to get in touch with your heart and soul are important.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Are you happy with your friendships? Do you hang out with quality people? If you want to have more friends in your life, be friendly!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is the perfect time to think about how you can improve your relations with bosses, parents and the authority figures in your life. We all have to deal with authority in one way or another.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): What kind of training or further studies can you explore to enrich your life or improve your job? One should never stop learning or pushing the sides of the envelope.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Make a sober examination of the responsibilities and duties you have for others. Perhaps you have responsibilities for the wealth of others?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Partnerships and relationships are a major focus in your life now. There's no getting around this. What can you do to improve this very important part of your life?

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

8		5	3	6				4
		6						
			8				9	1
						1		7
4								2
3		2						
7	1				9			
						5		
5				1	2	3		6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/22

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	8	5	4	9	3	2	1	6
3	6	9	1	2	5	8	4	7
2	4	1	7	6	8	5	9	3
4	9	7	5	8	1	3	6	2
1	2	3	6	4	7	9	8	5
8	5	6	9	3	2	4	7	1
6	3	2	8	1	9	7	5	4
9	7	4	3	5	6	1	2	8
5	1	8	2	7	4	6	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/21

Why Joe Mari Chan...

From page F4

hanapin Ko?" The lyrics were written by Jimmy Santiago. I wrote the melody. At the time Jimmy and I were writing the song, I was leaving for the US. He asked me, "Are you happy that you're going back to the US?" I said, "Every time I leave, I feel sad." That's how he got the inspiration for "Hahanapin Ko."

I love this country. I will never give up on it. God has given me the resources to improve the lives of some Filipinos. If I close down my business, what will happen to my workers?

I want my children to grow up here. What schools offer in terms of education is only 50 percent. The other 50 comes from us, their parents. If they study abroad, they lose the latter because they will live apart from us.

("Souvenirs" also features guest performers Pops Fernandez, Vilma Santos and husband Ralph Recto, Robert Seña and wife Isay Alvarez, Janet Basco, Gino Padilla, Margarita Saludo, Aliyah Parcs, The CompanY, Lindsay Custodio, and Chan's children Liza, Joe, Michael and Franco)

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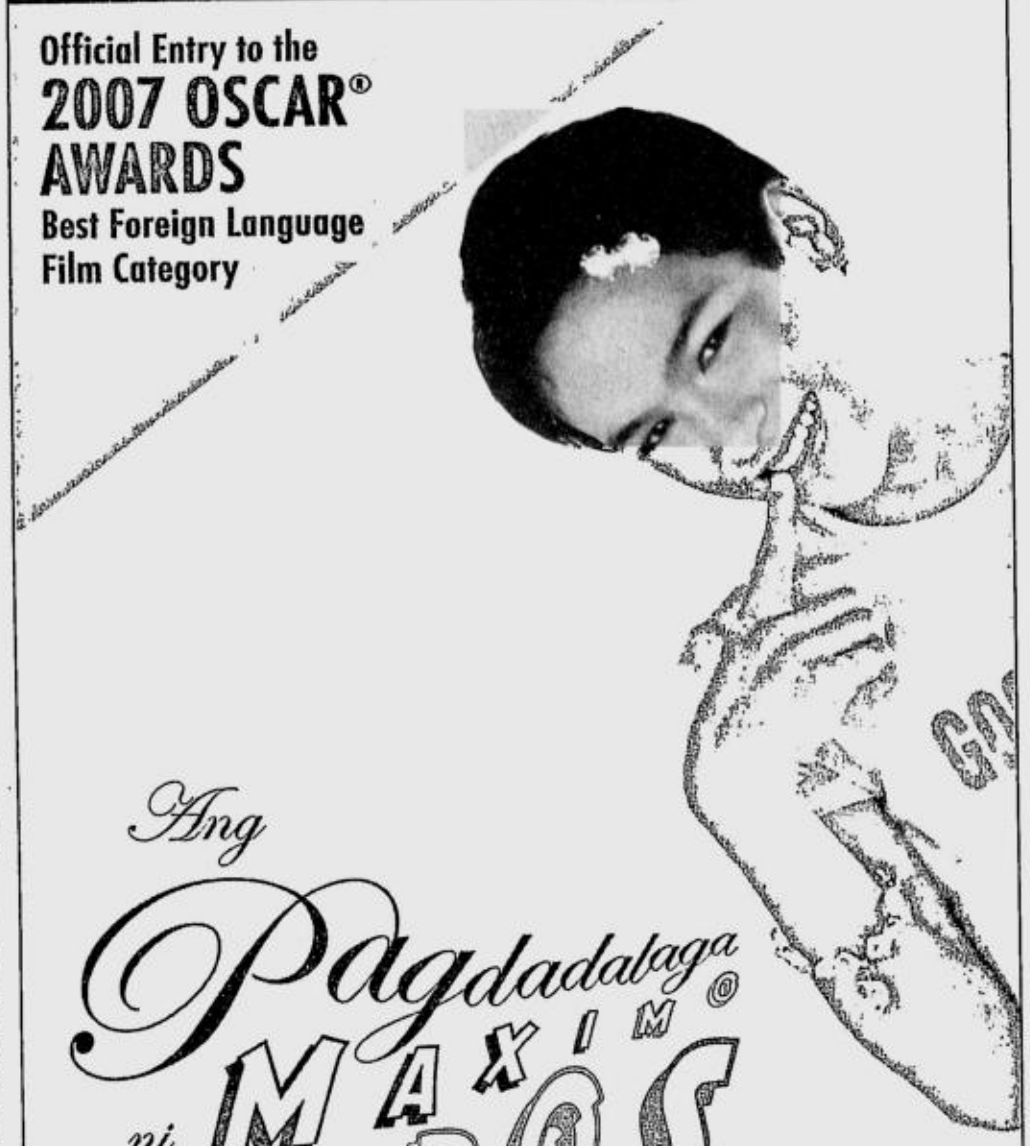

Ang Pagdadalaga ni MAXIMO OLIVEROS
(THE BLOSSOMING OF MAXIMO OLIVEROS)
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A Unitel Pictures / Unico Entertainment Release A ufo Pictures Production
JR Valentin as "Victor" introducing Nathan Lopez as "Maxi"
Soliman Cruz Neil Ryan Sese Ping Medina Bodjie Pascua
produced by Raymond Lee written by Michiko Yamamoto directed by Auraeus Solito
A Cinemalaya Presentation

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DEAD OR ALIVE 12:45 / 3:00 / 5:15 / 7:30 / 9:45	STEP UP 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30	TWILIGHT DANCERS 12:20, 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40	
THE BREED 1:20 / 3:25 / 5:30 / 7:35 / 9:40	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 2:30 / 6:50 MAXIMO OLIVEROS 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	YOU ARE THE ONE 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	GAT PLATINUM CINEMA
THE WICKER MAN 12:20 / 4:40 / 9:30	CRANK 2:30 / 6:50 SCOOP 12:20 / 4:40 / 9:00	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	STEP UP 1:10 / 3:45 / 6:20 / 8:55

AMIMALL 5

YOU ARE THE ONE 12:40, 3:10 / 5:40 / 8.10	THE BREED 2.15 / 2:20 / 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35	DEAD OR ALIVE 12:00 R3 / 1:35 / 3:50 / 6.05 / 8:20
TWILIGHT DANCERS 12:00 R4 / 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10	THE WICKER MAN 12:00 R3 / 1:30 / 3:40 / 5:50 / 8:00	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

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THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 TWILIGHT DANCERS	2 THE BREED	3 YOU ARE THE ONE	4 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE BREED	2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	3 THX DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 KINKY BOOTS	5 CRANK	6 STEP-UP	7 YOU, ME & DUPREE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE		2 STEP-UP	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX STEP-UP GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 MONSTER HOUSE / AUSTRALIAN FILMFEST GUARANTEED SEATS	4 KINKY BOOTS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX STEP-UP GUARANTEED SEATS		2 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE	
	3 THE BREED	4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	5 SCOOP	
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M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 STEP-UP		2 TWILIGHT DANCERS	
	3 THE BREED	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE	

At the Activity Center

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Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
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AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
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September 22 and 29 Paolo Santos
October 6 Nina
Bonifacio
923 JOEY it's a groove thing!
forward taguig

Ridley Scott observes, 'Russell has two children now, which I think always makes a difference in the best possible way'

CROWE with Australian actress Abbie Cornish, who plays an American girl in "A Good Year."

THE "GLADIATOR" team goes for something light: Director Ridley Scott, center, discusses a scene with his lead star on location for "A Good Year."

A kinder, gentler Russell Crowe

From page F1

Do you have the same urge that your character feels in this movie—to give up the rat race and in your case, just stay in your farm in Australia?

The thing is that daddy's still going to go out on the milk, mate. I'm very lucky that I do have places that I can go to where balance can be re-achieved.

Can you talk about the casting? Everyone seems to be perfect for their parts.

Ridley has this belief that the more work he puts into the casting, the less work he'll have to do on a daily basis on his set. He wants actors who are going to do their own preparation. I had a little bit of input in the casting of **Freddie Highmore.** I really like Freddie as an actor. Freddie himself knows that because we had a discussion about it. I pointed out to him a number of his performances that I was really enamored by. I went up to Freddie on the first day that he arrived. I said, "Good day, Freddie, I'm Russell. Since you're playing me as a young boy, if you want to spend any time hanging out, we can get together. We'll get to know each other, discuss and stuff like that." He goes, "Oh no, I don't think I'll have time for that." OK. I think he did a great job on this.

How has fatherhood changed you?

I've got two boys now. My priority is what they need and what my wife needs. That's said in positive terms because it's a wonderful experience. I'm probably in the wrong frame to really talk about that at the moment because I haven't been with them for a number of weeks. I've been working. I'm lonely for their company. We talk on the computer and I can see Tennyson and Charlie's faces. But it's just not the same as being able to cuddle them.

Are you feeling more romantic these days? Is this why you made a romantic comedy?

Well, I must be. Romantic and potent.

But when one thinks of romantic comedies, Russell Crowe and Ridley Scott are not the names that immediately come to mind.

Obviously, because of "Gladiator," there's this gigantic expectation. What most people expect is a lot of death and buckets of blood. But it's just healthy to work against those expectations. I don't think either of us has ever indicated in our work that we believe we're limited. Ridley has "Blade Runner," "Alien" and "Thelma and Louise." In my own work, alongside "Romper Stomper" is "The Sum of Us."

This film was the right story for us to make now, in terms of our own lives, what we wanted to do creatively and where we wanted to be. It's the two of us seeing the same thing the same way. Whether we're watching a tennis match or viewing somebody else's work, it's quite often we'll have a very similar opinion. So that's what all this is. It's just getting together with somebody whose company you really enjoy and who brings out the creativity in you.

Is this a good year in your life?

Yeah, it's been lovely. I'm really looking forward to the next year and the year after that and all the other years.

Has your outlook about your career also changed?

I don't think I approach everything with the same level of intensity that I used to. I look at work now with a completely different eye. Before, I had an urge to get out of the work while I was doing it. Now, I just enjoy being on a set, making a film, solving problems with my friends like Ridley. It's fun, enjoyable and creative. I'm blessed to be able to make a living this way. But it is not the most important thing anymore. Not even in the top 10.

If I were still looking at everything with the same type of intensity that I did in "Gladiator" or "A Beautiful Mind," then it might be a little harder for me. That was a professional phase I went through where I established some kind of unlimited parameters of what I was capable of. But now that I'm getting a little bit older, the bones are creaking and the Achilles tendons no longer work the way they should. The perspective just changes.

In which way is life sweeter now?

It's sweeter because I have a more objective opinion when it comes to my work. There are some things I just don't care about anymore. For a long time, the whole thing about being pursued by people down the street and stuff like that really bothered me. Now, if it happens, it's just part of the day. I don't worry about it.

So what's on your top 10 list of important things?

I wouldn't want to actually list it. But basically, whatever my children and my wife need is where every day begins. And then I have the rest of my family to look after. And very close friends and animals. And making sure that we've got the right non-chemical fertilizers to use on the soil at the farm. These things are most important.

With this movie, you must have learned a lot about wines. So how about a list of your favorite wines?

In terms of my personal tastes, New Zealand for sauvignon blanc and pinot and Australia for chardonnay and shiraz. If I say anything more, I'd be like giving huge advertising plugs.

In which stage are you now in your musical career?

The place where it should be—waiting for me to have some time and the inclination. I recorded an album last year and we put it on iTunes. It doesn't actually have a record company. We toured for six months. We played a concert while we were in France. That was interesting because we just decided that we'll put a sign up and say we're going to play on this date and see how many people turn up. The place was packed. So that was fun. But I'm not really ambitious in my musical career. I don't care to be a pop star.

What are the prospects for "Gladiator 2"?

That keeps coming up all the time. Of course, we made it very difficult for ourselves by killing my character off in the first one. But there is the afterlife question. I don't know. If we hadn't worked together on other stuff, the sequel idea would probably be burning a lot brighter than it is at the moment. But because Ridley and I are now back on that same schedule, we are working together, we've completed one, we're part way through the next one and we're talking in terms of creative stuff on other projects, maybe we don't need to do that.

Any which way you do it, it's going to be a stretch, right? Max is dead. So you can't come up with this idea with any kind of real honor. You know what I mean? It would have to be for the sheer fun of it. The thing is, we're having fun with what we're doing now. I'm really surprised that "Gladiator" has the same weight that it has because we never expected the success when we were making it. We didn't expect the resonance it has now. But we don't want to chase it and do something just for the sake of it. We do have an idea for "Gladiator 2" and we've analyzed that idea a lot. Currently, that idea never reaches that level of credibility that we can nod and say, all right, I can believe in that. It just comes back at us—the question always seems to be, are you kidding? So maybe we are kidding. Maybe we just enjoy talking about it.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

FLYBOYS

AN INTERVIEW WITH FIL-AM MEGA PRODUCER DEAN DEVLIN

From *Godzilla* to *Independence Day* to *FLYBOYS*, Dean Devlin's fondness for sky action is evident.

In *Godzilla*, planes destroyed the monster. In *Independence Day*, it was planes that saved the world . In *FLYBOYS*, it was planes that stopped evil.

The producer reveals the status of his sky-action film FLYBOYS against his previous hit films *Independence Day* and *Godzilla* while discussing his feelings about shooting in Hi-Def.

THE INTERVIEW:

iF Magazine: There is heavy CGI element when it comes to the battle sequences, is that correct? How extensive are the CGI battle elements and how different is this process compared to the air battle sequences in INDEPENDENCE DAY and GODZILLA?

DEVLIN: *"There is an enormous amount of special FX in FLYBOYS. Over 800 digital shots. While there is also a lot of actual aerial footage in the movie, there were aspects to these battles that were far too dangerous to attempt with real airplanes, so in order to show these battles in a way that has never been seen before, we needed to use special FX. We're very proud of the FX in the film and we think that they'll bring a thrilling dimension to the aerial sequences."*

iF Magazine: Other comparisons TO ID4 AND GODZILLA?

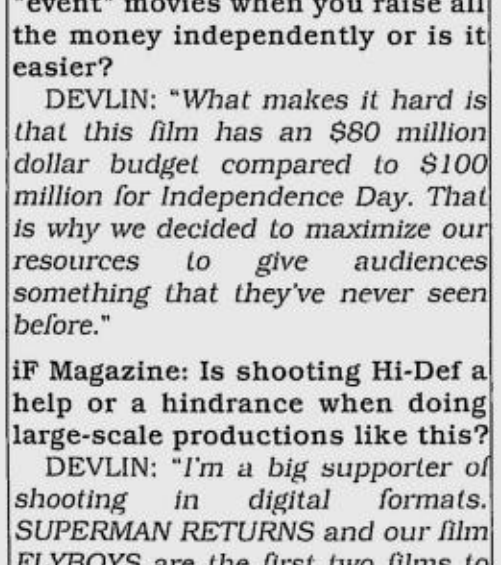
DEVLIN: *"As far as the theme goes, making ID4 and Godzilla were easier as we knew how to control the elements of the storyline. Independence Day which had an "Alien Invasion" theme and Godzilla a monster theme were all fiction . FLYBOYS is based on the real facts and figures that happened during WWI. There are real heroes in Flyboys, compared to fictional characters in ID4 and GODZILLA, who soared the skies with raging courage."*

iF Magazine: Is it harder to do "event" movies when you raise all the money independently or is it easier?

DEVLIN: *"What makes it hard is that this film has an $80 million dollar budget compared to $100 million for Independence Day. That is why we decided to maximize our resources to give audiences something that they've never seen before."*

iF Magazine: Is shooting Hi-Def a help or a hindrance when doing large-scale productions like this?

DEVLIN: *"I'm a big supporter of shooting in digital formats. SUPERMAN RETURNS and our film FLYBOYS are the first two films to ever shoot with Panavision's new Genesis 35mm digital format. The flexibility of the material and the ability to manipulate that material is an enormous part of our ability to bring more to the screen than traditionally could be done."* ADVT



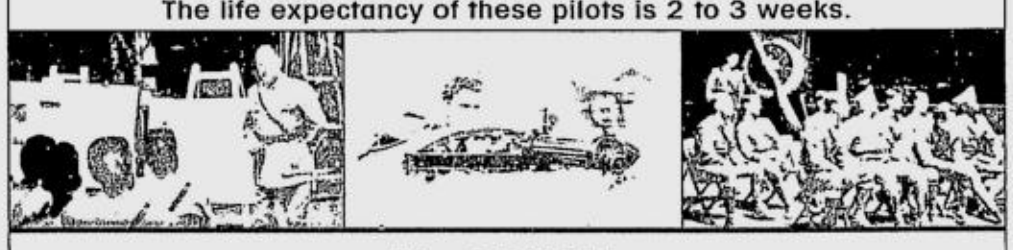
FLYBOYS' Fil-Am Mega Producer Dean Devlin who also produced "Godzilla" and "Independence Day".

COMING SOON

FROM DEAN DEVLIN, THE PRODUCER OF "GODZILLA" AND "INDEPENDENCE DAY"

The TRAINING:

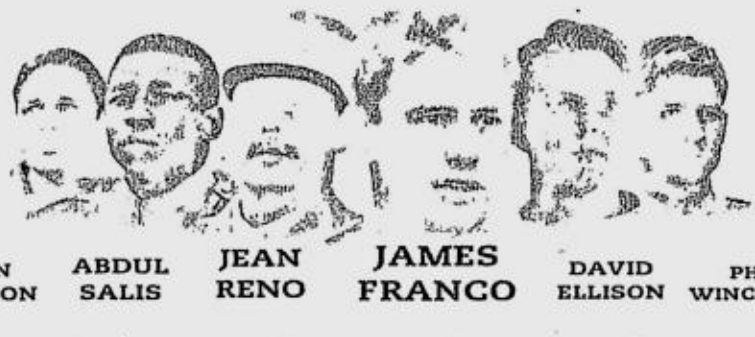
38 young Americans volunteered to become fighter pilots to save the world from evil domination.
They were taught combat tactics, aerial navigation and assault maneuvers, and using a Lewis Machine Gun while flying on imperfect biplanes...
The life expectancy of these pilots is 2 to 3 weeks.



The COMBAT:

These young boys quickly realize the gravity of their situation. They learn that they are outnumbered and fighting against a superior military power. They are even denied parachutes, since the military places higher value on the airplanes than on the lives of their pilots.

Soon combat begins, and these pilots are engaged in furious aerial dogfights with shocking, devastating casualties beyond their worst expectations. The highly trained German pilots, in their superior Fokker aircraft, are adept at coming from nowhere to outmaneuver a French plane and shoot it down. The shockingly short life expectancy of the pilots is reinforced with each burial in the squadron's cemetery.



MARTIN HENDERSON · ABDUL SALIS · JEAN RENO · JAMES FRANCO · DAVID ELLISON · PHILIP WINCHESTER

FLYBOYS

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Why Joe Mari Chan will never leave RP

By Marinel R. Cruz

TAKE FIVE

"WE MAY BE SENDING THE wrong signal to young people by encouraging them to aspire for fame in show business. Even parents believe that if their children become show biz stars, they'll make millions."

Singer-songwriter Jose Mari Chan, speaking with INQUIRER Entertainment, said musical talent among youngsters does not necessarily translate to a better economy.

As examples, he gave the young people in China and Japan who opted to concentrate on "things other than singing."

He explained: "It's possible that China has lots of singers, too. But it chose to focus on its economy. Same thing happened to Japan. The government concentrated on students gifted with scientific minds."

Chan, whose recording career spans 39 years, will appear in a TV special titled "Souvenirs" tomorrow night on RPN 9.

A lot of networks have invested in local versions of franchised shows. Is this a good thing?

The networks are here to make money. "American Idol" is such a huge success that we had to come out with "Philippine Idol." But even before "AI," we already had amateur shows and talent searches. It's nothing new. What's new is the concept of fierce competition.

As for "Pinoy Big Brother," I'm surprised that it became successful here. It's not in our culture. Filipinos are very private people. But again, if it sells, the networks will ride on it.

JOSE Mari Chan

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

What benefits are closest to your heart?

Schools and churches.

You're a successful businessman. What fulfillment do you get out of writing songs and singing them?

In most of my concerts, especially in the provinces, the people sing along with me. That's my satisfaction.

You lived in Japan, in the United States and traveled in many parts of the world. Why do you always come back?

Have you heard the song "Ha-

WHY JOE/ F3

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2006

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIVING Stars

G1

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INSIDE

- **Gina Alajar's two favorite books** /G6
- **Gina Pareño's special corner at home** /G6
- **What's in Cristine Reyes' closet?** G5
- **Who has three cute pampered cats?** /G6

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DOLPHY

THESE AFRICAN LOVEBIRDS WERE GIFTS from my son Junior Quizon. We named four pairs after famous celebrities Jo and Katherine Jackson, Oprah and Steadman, Will and Jada Smith, and Seal and Heidi Klum. (We had wanted a gay couple for the fourth pair, but settled on the interracial couple Seal and Heidi instead.) There are four unhatched eggs at the moment. We'll name the chicks Tyrone, Shaniqua, et cetera, depending on the gender. My daughters Zia (in photo) and Nicole and (partner) Zsazsa Padilla find the birds really cute and love taking care of them.
Bayani San Diego Jr.

RED CARPET

Filipiniana finery & flair

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

HEWING CLOSELY TO THE SHOW'S NATIONalistic concept, stars stepped out in Filipiniana finery for the 24th Luna Awards, staged last weekend by the Film Academy of the Philippines.

The evening's scene stealer was Cherie Gil,

FILIPINIANA/ G2

CLAUDINE Barretto
by Fanny Serrano

RAQUEL
Villavicencio by
Edgar San Diego

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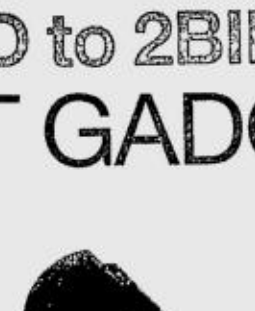

Sony PSP
Keyword: PSP
Starting bid: P150
Auction starts: Sept. 27, 2006
Auction ends: Oct. 4, 2006

Apple iPod 60GB
Keyword: IPOD
Starting Bid: P250
Auction starts: Sept. 13, 2006
Auction ends: Sept. 20, 2006

Nokia N93
Keyword: N93
Starting bid: P300
Auction starts: Sept. 20, 2006
Auction ends: Sept. 27, 2006

Canon IXUS Digicam
Keyword: IXUS
Starting bid: P200
Auction starts: Oct. 4, 2006
Auction ends: Oct. 11, 2006

HOW IT WORKS

P250.75 NOT UNIQUE
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P251.0 LOWEST UNIQUE BID*
P251.50 NOT UNIQUE
P251.80 UNIQUE BUT NOT THE LOWEST

Photos shown may vary from actual items.

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Filipiniana finery . . .

From page G1

dressed by Fanny Serrano in a "Doña Victorina" gown.

Serrano also designed Eddie Garcia's turn-of-the-century *barong* Tagalog, which came with an antique wooden cane lent to the actor by National Artist for Dance Ramon Obusan.

Members of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP) and other invited couturiers likewise created various versions of the Filipino dress for the presenters and winners. Jaclyn Jose donned a flowing Española by Oskar Peralta; Maricel Soriano a modern terno by Inno Sotto.

A few celebs were not too hot on the concept. Right, G.?

Original plan was to dress the stars in outfits that celebrated the Banaue Rice Terraces, Tubbataha Reefs and other Unesco World Heritage Sites.

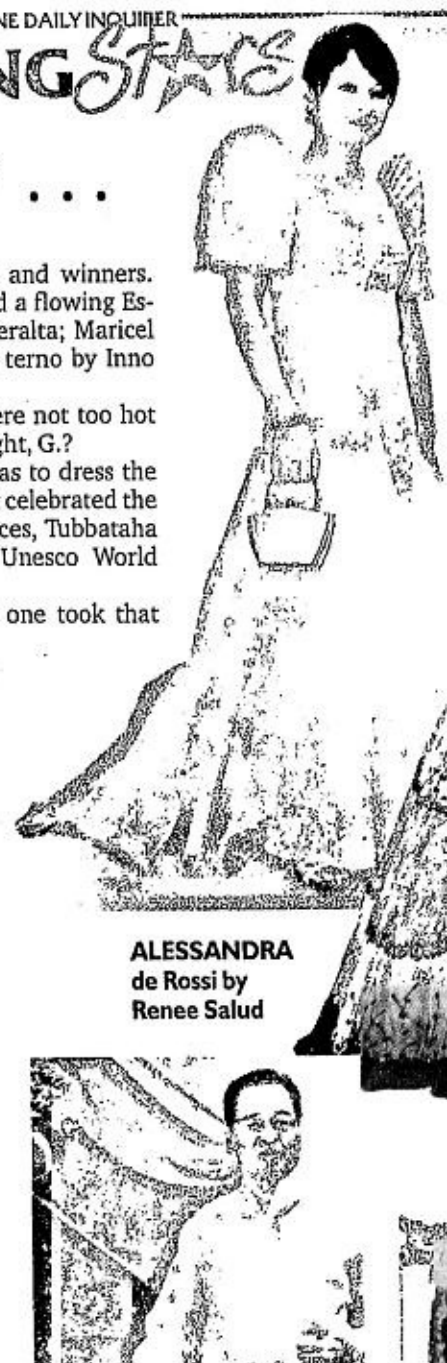
Fortunately, no one took that literally.

Or figuratively.

MARICEL Soriano by Inno Sotto

GINA Alajar by Francis Calaquian

JOLINA Magdangal by Serrano



ALESSANDRA de Rossi by Renee Salud

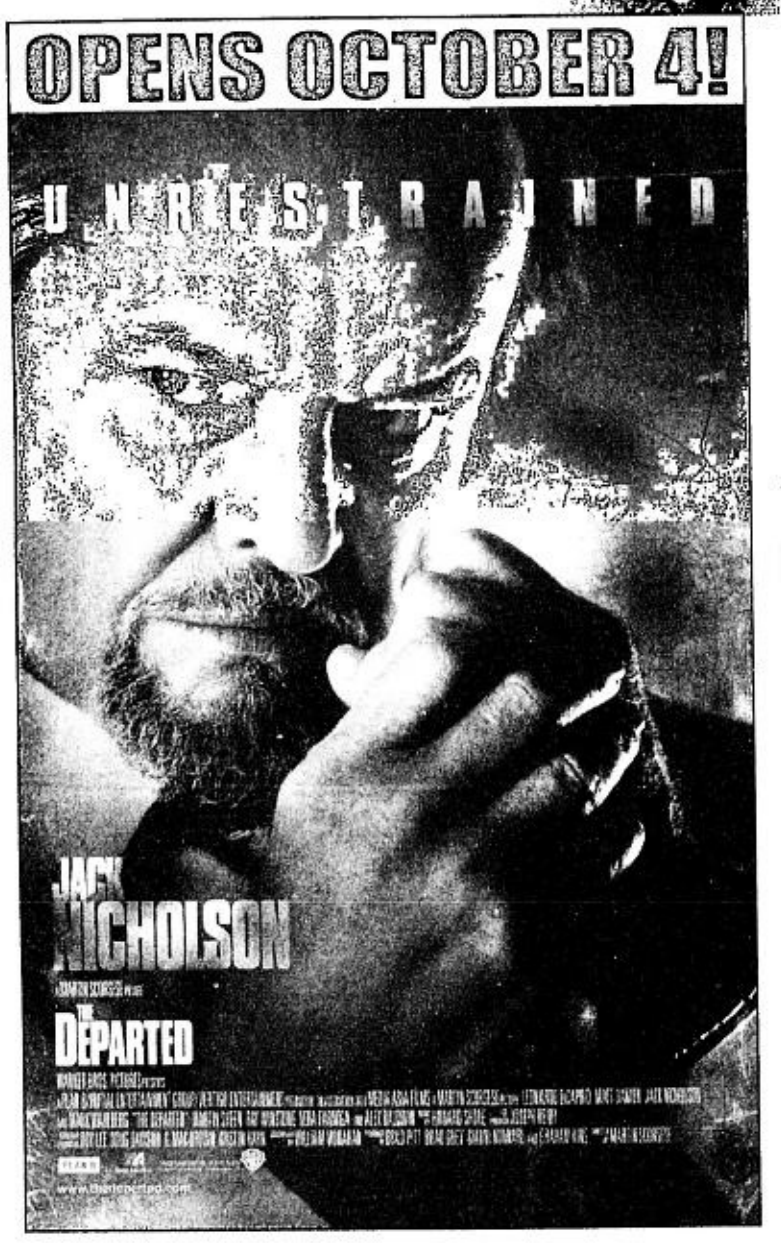
EDDIE Garcia by Serrano

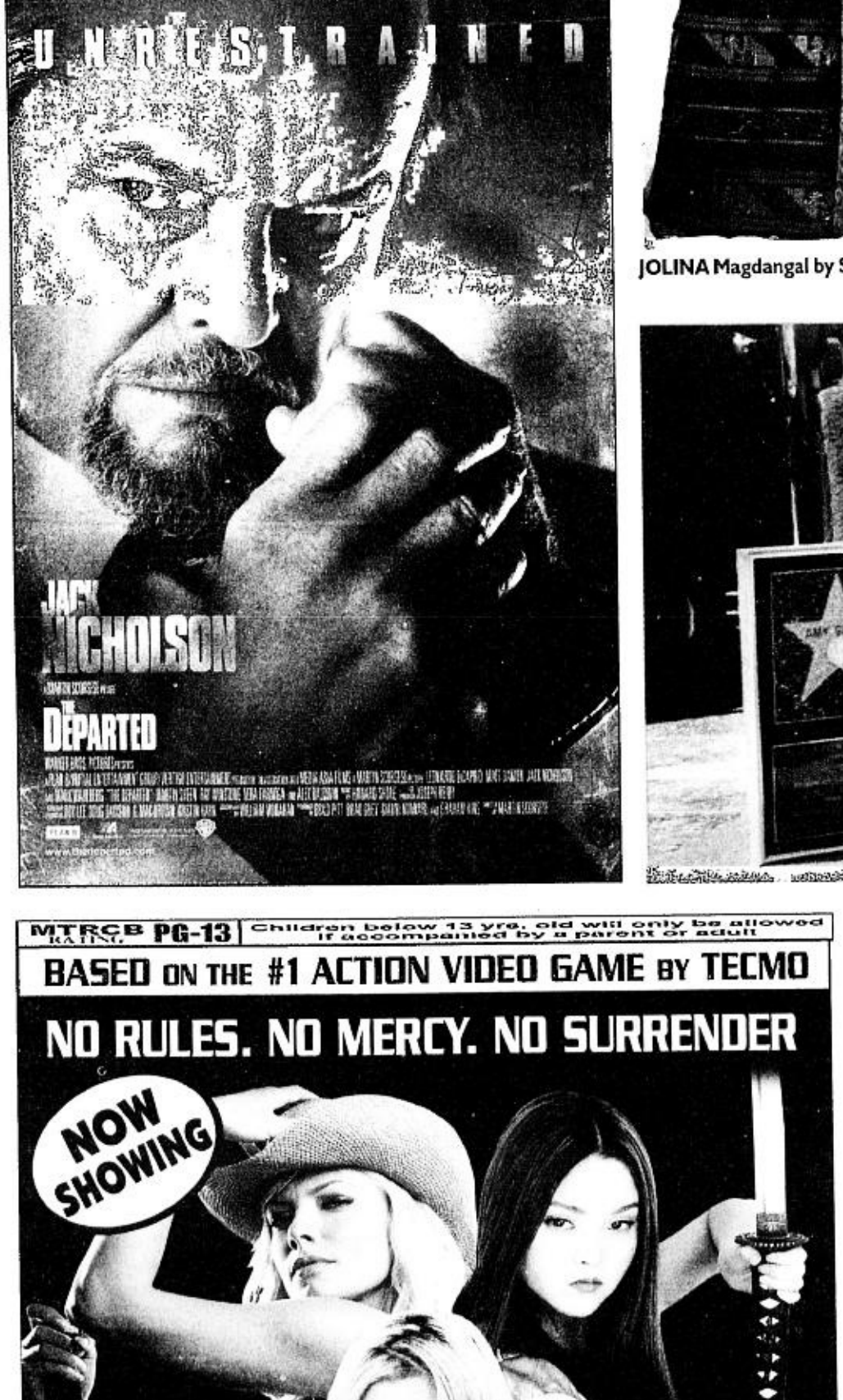
MYLENE Dizon by Richard Papa; Paolo Paraiso by Randy Ortiz

AIZA Marquez by Cherie Cariaga of Drezee

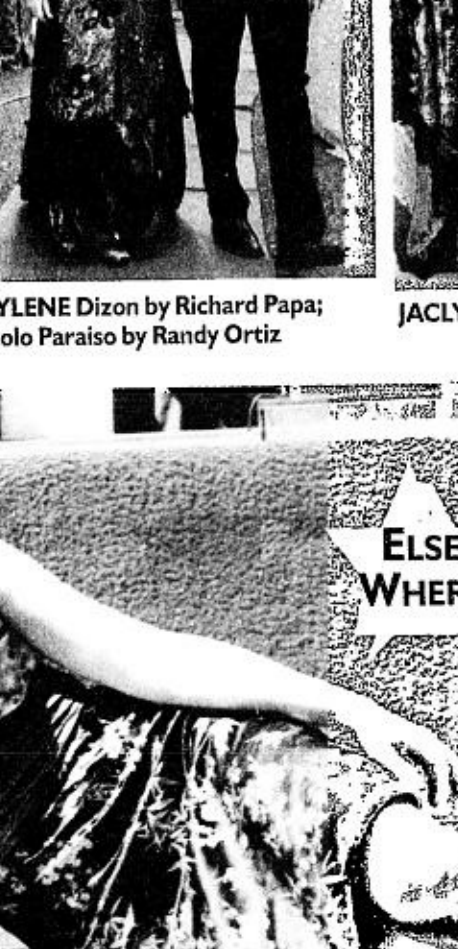
LANI Mercado and Bong Revilla by Danilo Franco

JACLYN Jose by Oskar Peralta





"HOLLYWOODLAND'S" Ben Affleck and Diane Lane at the film's premiere in Beverly Hills. REUTERS



KEVIN Costner, wife Christine Baumgartner, left, and daughter Lily at the premiere of "The Guardian" in Washington. REUTERS

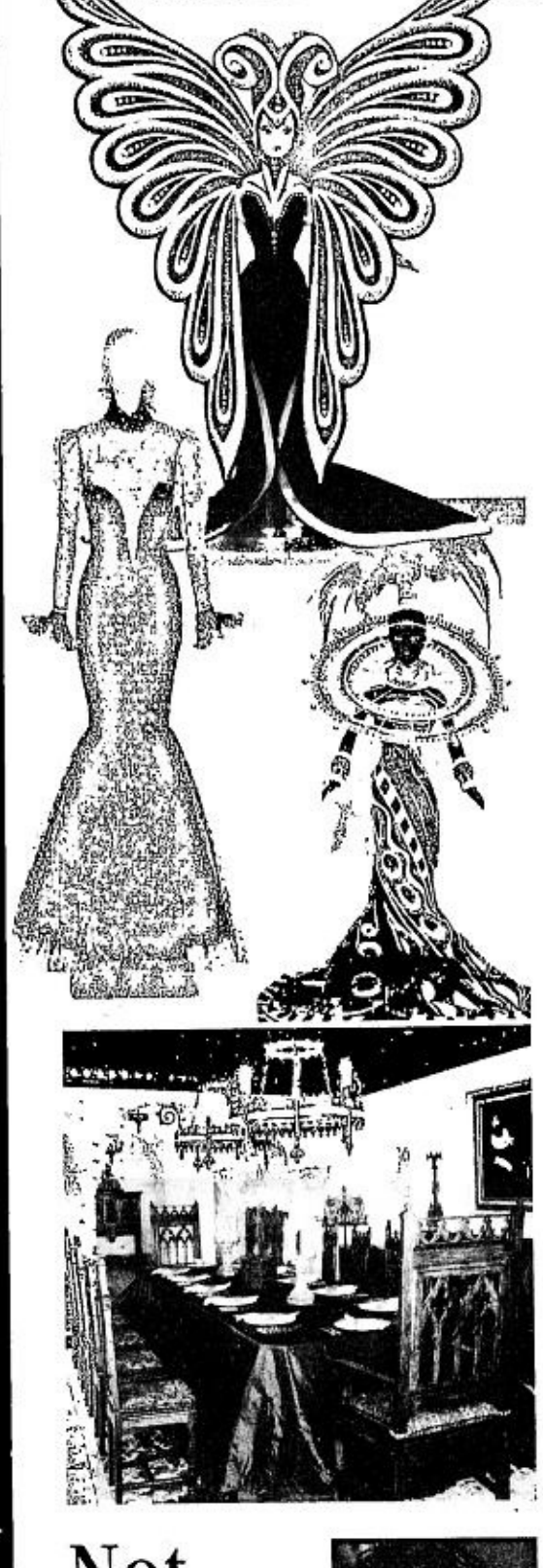
CHRISTINA Aguilera at the Fashion Rocks concert in New York. REUTERS

MARK Ruffalo with wife Sunrise for the premiere of "All the King's Men" in New Orleans. REUTERS

JENNIFER Garner at the premiere of "Hollywoodland" in Beverly Hills. REUTERS

KATHLEEN Robertson also at the Beverly Hills preem of "Hollywoodland."

EVA Mendes at the Fashion Rocks concert in New York. REUTERS



Not just a garage sale

LONDON—FASHION ICON AND AWARD-winning singer and actress Cher is clearing her Malibu home of its Gothic contents and reshaping her life in a giant garage sale.

Following a trend set by rock star Elton John, Cher is selling off nearly 800 items from stage costumes to gem encrusted jewelry, works of art, furniture and even a huge Hummer car in an auction expected to raise more than $1 million.

DID YOU KNOW...

"This is a lot more than a garage sale. Apart from the dresses and jewels there are Old Masters and architectural drawings," said Darren Julien of Julien's auctions.

Some of the items went on show in London two weeks ago ahead of the sale in Los Angeles on Oct. 3-4.

The sale is jointly organized by Sotheby's New York office and Julien's of the United States.

Among the items on show are several dresses by star designer Bob Mackie, white and yellow gold rings and necklaces and a book of architectural drawings by 19th century Gothic Revivalist Augustus Pugin.

"She decided a while ago that she wanted to sell off a few things and change her style, and it grew from that to this collection of some 200 gowns and costumes and nearly 800 items in total," Julien said. "She is redecorating her home, going for a Moroccan-Tibetan look and selling the Gothic revival items."

He added that the mannequins supporting the dresses had to be custom-made because of Cher's special figure.

"And it's not as though she needs the money, said Julien. In 2002, the Rolling Stone magazine estimated Cher's personal wealth at $600 million. *Reuters*

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JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE PG13 1:50,3:50,5:50,7:50,9:50	SCOOP PG13 1:15,3:25,5:35,7:45,9:55	DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE PG13 2:10,4:10,6:10, 8:10,10:10
THE BREED R13 2:20,4:20,6:20, 8:20,10:20	CRANK R13 1:30,3:30,5:30,7:30,9:30	STEP UP PG13 1:25,3:40,5:55, 8:10,10:25

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GALLERIA 632-4110

1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE • THX 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
2 RESERVE 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 STEP UP 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 DEAD OR ALIVE 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
5 THE BREED 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
6 TWILIGHT DANCERS 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:50 3:05 5:20
THE WICKER MAN 7:55 10:00
8 YOU ARE THE ONE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
9 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00
10 CRANK 1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

ERMITA 3638-7808 to 12

1 DEAD OR ALIVE 11:45 1:45 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50
3 STEP UP 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
4 MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:00 1:50 3:40
CRANK 5:50 7:50 9:50
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 12:00 1:50 3:40
SCOOP 5:50 7:50 10:00
6 THE BREED 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
7 YOU ARE THE ONE 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8194

1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 THE BREED 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00
3 STEP UP 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
4 CRANK 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:55 9:00
5 TWILIGHT DANCERS 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05
6 DEAD OR ALIVE 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
7 DEAD OR ALIVE 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
8 YOU ARE THE ONE 1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

NOVALICHES 933-5243 / 933-3228

1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2578 PIONEER 687-5378

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 STEP UP
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

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Twilight Dancers offers a disturbing yet humurous look at Philippine social realities through the eyes of three macho dancers. Dwight, young and at the peak of his trade, loses the girl he loves to a politician's son Alfred, at 28, is past his prime and is kicked out of the club when the film starts. Bert, 30, has long since given up dancing, and is now the bodyguard-driver of a corrupt yet jolly businesswoman Madame Loca.

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1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 THE WICKER MAN
1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 SPL
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 ANGELES (045) 892-2348

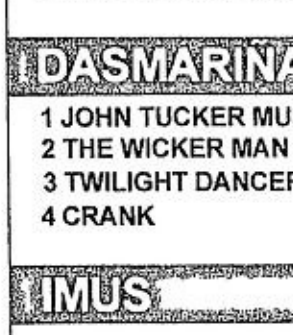
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 THE WICKER MAN
3 TWILIGHT DANCERS
4 CRANK
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2

IMUS (046) 875-3838 STARMILLS (045) 963-5270

1 THE WICKER MAN
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 TWILIGHT DANCERS
4 STAY ALIVE
1 SCOOP
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 ETERNITY
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 CRANK

BACOLOD (034) 441-0456 ILOILO (033) 336-9070

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
5 BINIBINING K
6 KUBRADOR
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE



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2 CRANK
3 SCOOP
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
PREMIERE CINEMA
THE BREED
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
DEAD OR ALIVE
CENTERSTAGE
STEP UP
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
STEP UP
CINEMA 2
DEAD OR ALIVE
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 STEP UP
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 STEP UP
6 CRANK
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
10 SNAKES ON A PLANE
11 WICKER MAN
12 THE BREED

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 STEP UP
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 THE BREED
6 CRANK
7 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
9 WICKER MAN
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12 SCOOP

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
2 ETERNITY
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 WICKER MAN
5 THE BREED
6 CRANK
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 STEP UP
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 LITTLE MAN
11 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 STEP UP
3 THE BREED
4 CRANK
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
8 ETERNITY
9 WICKER MAN
10 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 STEP UP
4 THE BREED
5 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 CRANK
3 THE BREED
4 STEP UP
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 WICKER MAN
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 CRANK
4 THE BREED

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 STEP UP
2 WICKER MAN
3 CRANK
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 DEAD OR ALIVE
7 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 SCOOP
12 THE BREED

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4223201-04
1 CRANK
2 YOUARE THE ONE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 WICKER MAN

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 CRANK
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 CRANK
2 WICKER MAN
3 THE BREED
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 BINIBINING K
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 CRANK
5 WICKER MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 ETERNITY
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 SNAKES A ON PLANE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 CRANK
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 STAY ALIVE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 WICKER MAN

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 CRANK
4 WICKER MAN
5 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
6 STORMBREAKER
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 SNAKES A ON PLANE
2 KUBRADOR
3 CRANK
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 SNAKES A ON PLANE
4 CRANK
5 SCOOP
6 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM CITY LIPA
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 CRANK
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MORTUARY
3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197836-39
1 CRANK
2 LOVEWRECKED
3 MORTUARY
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 THE BREED
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 CRANK

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 CRANK
2 WICKER MAN
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 RESERVED
3 MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 BINIBINING K
7 RESERVED
8 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 BINIBINING K
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

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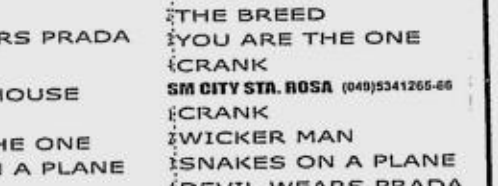

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SHANG CINEPLEX

1 STEP-UP
MTRCB. PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

2 DEAD OR ALIVE
MTRCB. PG-13
1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
MTRCB: PG-13
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

4 MONSTER HOUSE
MTRCB GP 1:20, 3:20
SCOOP MTRCB. PG-13
5:20, 7:40, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB PG-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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CINEMA 1: JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
11:45, 1:55, 4:04, 6:15, 8:25, 10:35
PG-13

CINEMA 2: SCOOP
11:15, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:05
PG-13

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PROMENADE
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3: THE BREED
10:30, 12:35, 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 9:00
R-13

CINEMA 4: STEP UP
12:00, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30
PG13

CINEMA 5: DEAD OR ALIVE
10:35, 12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

OCT. 07, 2006	AKAFELLAS	8:30 PM
OCT. 13, 2006	GENEVA C. ALDAS, TRUEFAITH JAYA, CHOCOLATE, JAY-R	8:00 PM

T·E·A·T·R·I·N·O
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EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO CLASSICO	8:00PM
SEPT. 14,21, 28,2006	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA	8:30 PM
OCT. 7, 14, 21, 2006	AYEN LAUREL & RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO	8:00 PM

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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00
PG-13

2 STEP UP
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

3 SCOOP
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
PG-13

4 DEAD OR ALIVE
2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00
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2 (DOLBY) DEAD OR ALIVE
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4 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE
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PREMIERE
(DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

stармall
EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268160
3 STEP UP
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) DEAD OR ALIVE
5 TWILIGHT DANCERS

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8634285, 8433934
1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 SCOOP

THEATRES
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2 STORMBREAKER
3 MONSTER HOUSE

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FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE WICKER MAN
2 (DOLBY) DEAD OR ALIVE
3 (DTS) MONSTER HOUSE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
5 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) STEP UP
6 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SNAKE ON A PLANE
7 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) YOU ARE THE ONE
8 (DIGITAL) THE BREED
9 (DIGITAL) TWILIGHT DANCERS
10 (DIGITAL) CRANK

Blue Wave MALABON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
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2 (DOLBY) DEAD OR ALIVE
3 (DOLBY) STEP UP
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) DEAD OR ALIVE
2 THE BREED
3 TWILIGHT DANCERS
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5 YOU ARE THE ONE

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Masagana CINEMA
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1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 CRANK
2 AMERICAN DREAM

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) BASIC INSTINCT-2
2 STAY ALIVE
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4 YOU ME & DUPREE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
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2 MY SUPER EX- GIRLFRIEND

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4 RESERVED

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4 CRANK

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1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE
4 (DTS) AMERICAN DREAM

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 MIAMI VICE
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 BINIBINING K
2 GHOST INSIDE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) GHOST INSIDE
2 SEX SCANDAL
3 TAO LAMANG
4 (DTS) BINIBINING K

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE WICKER MAN
2 BABY DOLL
3 (DTS) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 MORTUARY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
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2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 CRANK
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Berma Cinema
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1 SEX SCANDAL
2 BINIBINING K

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Happy with just the basics

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by August dela Cruz

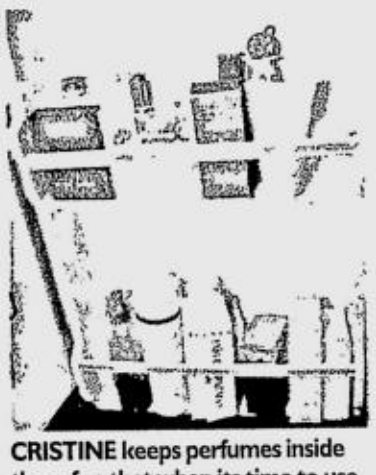
TEEN STAR CRISTINE Reyes occupies the biggest bedroom in the two-story Reyes home in Marikina City now that her eldest sister, Heidi, has gotten married and moved out.

Cristine's other sister, sexy actress Ara Mina, lives on her own in a posh subdivision in Quezon City.

"I'm quite content with my room because I can do whatever I want with it," said Cristine when Living Stars visited last week. "My only problem is that because it's big, I cannot clean it by myself."

Given the choice, Cristine said she would opt for just the "right-size" bedroom. She'd like carpeted floors and a Japanese-style bed. "I also want the walls to be painted in white, red and black, *para maaliwalas*," the actress added. "I'd like all my stuff kept in a walk-in closet just beside my bathroom."

Cristine was with the first batch of talents launched by GMA 7 via "Starstruck" three years ago. She has appeared in several movies and is regularly seen on the Sunday variety show "SOP."



CRISTINE keeps perfumes inside the ref so that when its time to use them, refreshing *ang* feeling.

CRISTINE Reyes: On her own

She will make two films this year—Cris Pablo and Tony Y. Reyes' "Pitong Dalagita" and Buboy Tan's "Barang."

"I enjoy show business in spite of the long hours," said the 17-year-old. "I've learned a lot. I now make my own decisions, handle my finances and shop for things I need all by myself."

TOPS

I like wearing plain white tops because I can match them with any color and wear them on any occasion. *Malamig din sa katawan.* My favorite white shirt is this stretchable top from Mango.

This black tight-fitting top is quite memorable. I wore this when I attended an Ateneo school fair, where I met a very special guy. We didn't end up together, but we're still in touch and he's still one of my crushes.

Dickies provides most of my clothes. Of all the tops that I got from them, this pink and red tank is my favorite. It's perfect when worn with my favorite pair of shorts.

For more formal occasions, I wear this white long-sleeved button-down blouse. It has an intricate embroidered design that I really like. This goes with any kind of outfit, and I don't have to accessorize it anymore.

JEANS

I bought this pair of Versace jeans in Hong Kong last summer, but I'm still waiting for the perfect time to wear it. I like its unique design. Its fabric is tattered, faded and soft.

When I buy pants, I make sure it fits me nicely in the butt area.

The oldest blue jeans that I still use is this pair from Details, which I got during the "Starstruck" competition. I like its fabric, soft and stretchable.

SHORTS AND SKIRTS

It's good that shorts are back in fashion. I love wearing them. My favorite pair is from Zara, which I bought just recently. One of my oldest pairs is the red shorts that I wore on "Starstruck," a gift from my sister Heidi.

I like this cotton skirt because of its unique style and color combination. It's from FCUK. Girl *na girl*! I also own a few denim mini-skirts. I like them because they're very manageable. Wash and wear *lang*.

DRESSES

I've not worn this dress from X (an asymmetrical gold gown), but it's very memorable. I had a hard time looking for it in Glorietta. I seldom go to that area in Makati because its such a big place, but I really needed a dress for the "Starstruck" Batch 2 Finals. On the night of the show, it turned out that I no longer needed to change into it.

This two-piece dress I just got from a flea market. But when I wear this, people say I stand out. I like the green-and-gold combination. I just drape the skirt around my waist, like a *sarong*.

ACCESSORIES

I'm not so much into accessories. I often go out, even at night, without any. The reason I'm wearing these charms is that my sister Ara introduced me to Joy Lim of Charms and Crystals. Miss Joy gave me a whole bunch of bracelets from her shop. What I'm wearing are called love charms.

I buy accessories only because I use them at work. I like shiny and studded necklaces and bracelets because they look good on stage. They don't have to be expensive.

HER favorite Havaianas

BAGS

I don't often use bags when I go out, but for work I like them big and sturdy. For really long tapings, I bring my Benetton trolley so I can have all my stuff in one place.

My most recent purchase is this pair of shoulder bags I got in Hong Kong last summer. They have the same design—the face of Jimi Hendrix—but one is green and the other is gold.

FOOTWEAR

I own a lot of flip-flops although I can't say I collect them. I just buy them when I see a design or color that I like. I also get them from friends as gifts. Keempee de Leon recently sent me a pair from Prada. My first Havaianas I bought are these ones from-Chocolate.

I have many pairs of Accel rubber shoes because I endorse it. Although I don't play football, my favorite is this pair of black football shoes. The spikes keep me from slipping.

I also own a pair of knee-high cowboy boots from People Are People. *Astig tingnan* (They look tough), but they don't pinch.

See these flats from Hong Kong? They make people who wear them look really comfortable, so I bought two pairs without trying them on. *Nagkapaltos ako.*

COSMETICS

I prefer the brands Shisheido, Mac and Body Shop. My favorite blush, from Shiseido, is cream-based. It stays on my skin longer than the powder-based variety. I don't wear eye shadow when I appear on TV, I just use my ever-reliable mascara. If I really need to, I wear the lightest shade of pink.

I use a lot of stuff on my hair, like hairspray, gel, mousse and glitter. I never want my hair to look unruly.

I keep perfumes inside the refrigerator so that when I use them on a hot and sunny day, refreshing *ang* feeling. I like the scent of Burberry because I smell like a newly bathed baby. Gucci Rush has the same effect. It's so mild. I also like DKNY's Be Delicious and Jessica Simpson's Taste Kissable.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

ONLY cowboy boots for the teen actress

SHE scurried to Glorietta to buy this evening dress, only to be told it was no longer needed.

CRISTINE uses only Shiseido and Mac on her face, but tries different products on her hair.

DENIM mini-skirts are very manageable. Wash and wear *lang*, says the teen star.

HER Benetton trolley is the perfect lug-along for really long workdays.

NOT a bag lady, but proud of her Jimi Hendrix shoulder sack.

Asian Marine film fest judges compare Angel Aquino to Ingrid Bergman

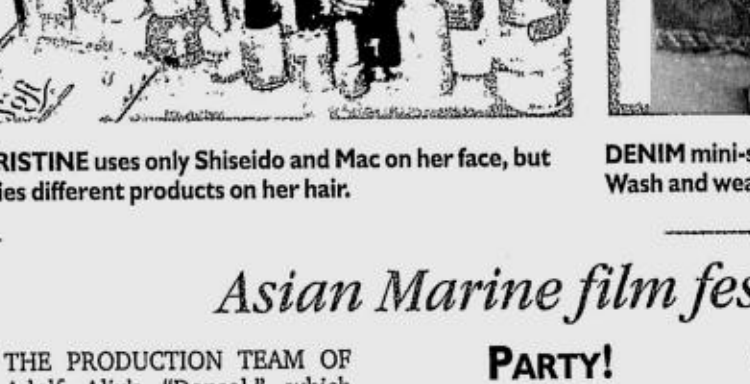
THE PRODUCTION TEAM OF Adolf Alix's "Donsol," which bagged the special jury prize in the Asian Marine Film Festival in Makuhari, Japan, held a victory bash at the Mezze Bar in Greenbelt recently.

Angel Aquino, who plays Teresa, a breast cancer survivor, was the evening's "it" girl. The svelte actress received a special commendation from the Asian Marine jury, which compared her to Hollywood great Ingrid Bergman in the classic film "Casablanca."

Taking a break from serving booze and dancing to club music, Alix announced that "Donsol" has been invited to the 30th Cairo International Film Festival in December and will participate in the Pusan Film Market in October.

Marinel R. Cruz

PARTY! PARTY!



WRITER and talent manager Ricky Gallardo, Rep. Justin Chipeco, Rep. Gilbert Remulla, actors Sid Lucero and Angel Aquino, director Adolf Alix, Rep. Joel Villanueva and Rep. Bembem Noel JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'Penguin' preem

For the celebrity premiere of "Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginagawa?" at Cinema 1 of SM Megamall on Sept. 1, the film's Filipino narrator Sharon Cuneta was accompanied by her entire family—husband Sen. Francis Pangilinan and kids KC, Frankie and Miel, who was celebrating her birthday the next day.

Apart from celebs Cesar Montano, Sunshine Cruz, William Martinez, Yayo Aguila, Dennis Padilla, Marjorie Barretto, Richard Merck, Bayani Agbayani, Joyce Bernal and Christine Bersola, Sharon's special guests that evening were the children of Hospicio de San Jose, KUYA and Childhope, who were brought to the movie house by the Council for the Welfare of Children.

Right after the screening, the Pangilinans trooped to Heat resto at Edsa Shangri-La for a get-together hosted by Unitel's Tony Gloria.

THE FAMOUS Pangilinans, at the movies.

RONALD McDonald at "Penguin" preem.

CESAR Montano, Francis Pangilinan and Tony Gloria

YAYO Aguila, William Martinez and their son, William Adam

Books

GINA ALAJAR

I love reading. I recently finished "He's Just Not That Into You: The No-Excuses Truth to Understanding Guys," by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tucillo. It's about knowing what's on your guy's mind just by interpreting his actions. I've read this so many times, but it still makes me smile. My favorite is the Christian book, "Our Daily Bread." I read it along with the Bible. It helps me a lot in my personal relationship with the Lord.

Marinel R. Cruz
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Favorite Nooks

GINA PAREÑO

In my vacation house in the province, I do a lot of reading. In fact, I read the screenplay of (the internationally acclaimed film) "Kubrador" at this wooden table—which I had made based on my specifications. I hang out here because I have a view of the flowers in the garden below. It's very relaxing, especially on a foggy day.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Dalhin ang Buong Pamilya!
OPENS SEPT. 27
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20 years after EDSA.
20 short films. 20 filmmakers.
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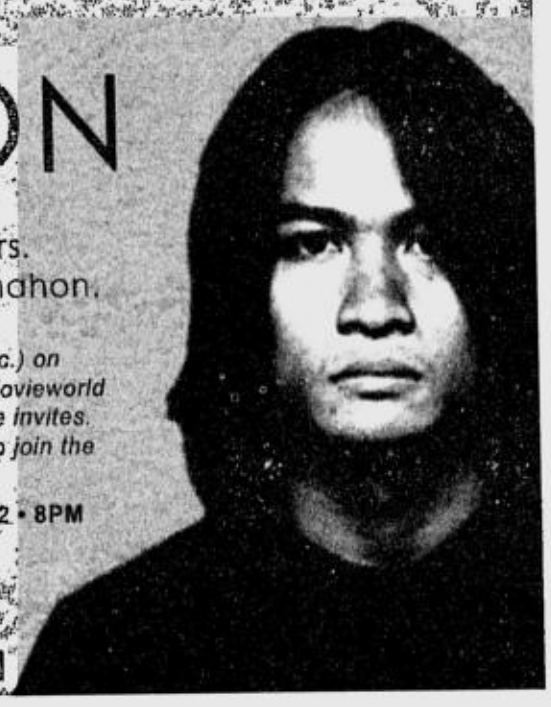
Bring any Martial Law memorabilia (newspaper clippings, photos, shirts etc.) on September 22, 3:00 PM • Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Customer Service to get movie invites. Free invite is good for the first one who join the promo. Each one will get (2) invites.

Premiere Screening on September 22 • 8PM
Robinsons Galleria Cinema 1 THX



Philippine Independent Filmmakers Multi-purpose Cooperative
PELIKULA

Tail Tales

NINA

I have four cats. The first is Patience, a year-old Siamese cat. Recently, I got four-month old Rusty, a Persian. I bought him because he looks so much like Garfield. Courage, a stray cat about Rusty's age, is a gift from my *yaya*'s family. Cotton is just a kitten. He's one of Courage and Patience's three kitties.

I pamper my cats. I make sure I feed them only cat food. I also allow them to stay in my bedroom sometimes. Unlike dogs, cats don't make too much noise. Plus, they don't have to be potty-trained. *Malinis sila.* Just put a kitty litter in one corner of the house and they will instinctively bury their poop there.

Marinel R. Cruz
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

WITH stray cat Courage

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